

THANK YOU for supporting ACS CAN Hawaii-Guam's advocacy efforts and programs throughout the year!

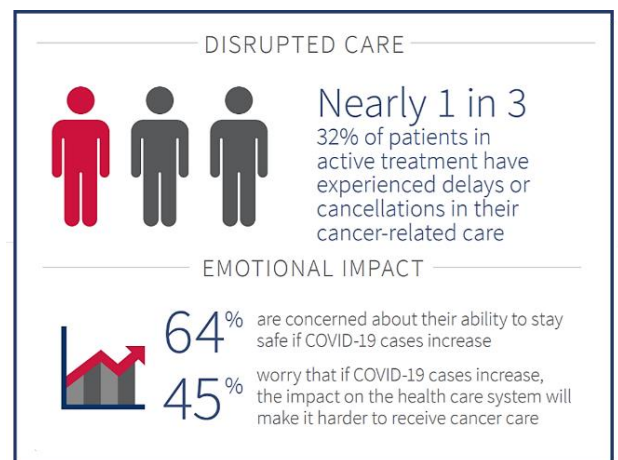


Senate Introduces Health Equity Legislation Critical to Reducing Disparities

U.S. Senator Hirono (D-HI) introduced the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) of 2020, designed to address racial and ethnic health disparities and improve access to health care for communities of color. ACS CAN applauded the inclusion of the [Henrietta Lacks Enhancing Cancer Research Act](#) in this comprehensive package, which aims to improve cancer clinical trial participation among communities of color who are traditionally underrepresented. HEAA also creates a path to increase the federal tobacco tax, including tax parity on other tobacco products like e-cigarettes, and improve access to cessation services in Medicaid and private health plans. [Read more in our press statement.](#)

Survivor Views Survey Shows Health Care Delays, Anxiety Persist for Cancer Patients

ACS CAN's latest [Survivor Views survey](#) released on October 9 found that nearly one in three (32%) cancer patients in active treatment reported delays or cancellations in their cancer care because of the COVID-19 pandemic. A driving factor behind the delays is anxiety among both providers and patients about the risk of contracting the coronavirus, with 64% of all respondents saying they were worried about their ability to stay safe if COVID-19 cases increase. Additionally, 51% ranked ensuring the comprehensiveness of health insurance as the top public policy priority to support cancer patients and survivors.



This latest survey further emphasizes the imperative that elected officials take action to ensure safe, affordable and comprehensive access to care for cancer patients and survivors. Read more in our [press statement](#) and [infographic](#).

Cancer Screening During the COVID-19 Pandemic

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, elective medical procedures, including cancer screening, were largely put on hold to prioritize urgent needs and reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19 in healthcare settings. One consequence of this has been a substantial decline in cancer screening.

If you had an appointment for screening that was postponed or canceled, talk to your healthcare team about when to reschedule. Your provider can discuss balancing the risks and benefits of being screened now or postponing for a later date, taking into account your personal and family history, other risk factors, and the timing of your last screening test.

It is also important to keep in mind that we're focusing here on cancer *screening*. Screening tests look for cancer in people who don't have symptoms. These tests are different from tests your doctor might order if you have symptoms that could be from cancer. If you have signs or symptoms that might be from cancer, for instance, a lump in the breast or blood in the stool, you should discuss this with your provider right away, as you will need exams or tests that evaluate those particular signs and symptoms.

Check out [Cancer Screening Guidelines](#) to learn more about regular screenings.



November is National Family Caregivers Month

A cancer diagnosis doesn't just impact the patient; it touches family and close friends, too. November is National Family Caregivers Month, which gives the American Cancer Society an opportunity to ensure cancer caregivers are aware of the many ways we are here to support them.

Self-care for caregivers is critical. It's important that they take care of themselves both mentally and physically in order to be a better support system for the cancer patient they support. By finding balance in their own lives, they can continue to provide quality assistance to their loved one facing cancer.

Resources for cancer caregivers:

- Support 24/7/365 via live chat [cancer.org](#) or through our free cancer helpline, 1-800-227-2345.
- A caregiver video series available at [cancer.org/caregivervideos](#).
- A comprehensive Caregiver Resource Guide that helps family and friends navigate the care of their loved one. It's available at [cancer.org/caregiverguide](#).

American Cancer Society supports caregivers, with resources found [here](#).



November 19 is the Great American Smokeout

Quitting smoking takes time and a plan. On Thursday, Nov. 19, the 45th annual Great American Smokeout offers an opportunity for individuals, community groups, businesses, health care providers, and others to encourage people to make a plan to quit, or begin their smoking cessation efforts. Check out [Cancer.org/smokeout](#) which contains resources for quitting and other useful materials.

Note on National and Local Elections

The election marked the beginning of what is sure to be a significant period of time as our country faces uncertainty awaiting the outcomes of the presidential election and several key congressional and state legislative races. No matter the outcome, ACS CAN is readily prepared to work with the administration, members of Congress and all elected officials – nationwide – to continue driving impact through our advocacy agenda every way we can.