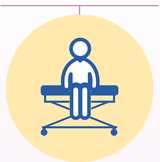
CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVORS IN LATIN AMERICA

Survivors' Perspectives on Long-Term Effects and Information Needs

Prevalence of Late Effects Among Survivors



Across Latin America, thousands of children and adolescents overcome cancer each year. However, **many survivors experience late effects** that significantly impact their physical, mental, social and economic well-being.

MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

61,2% reported **symptoms** of anxiety, depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder.

ENDOCRINE DISORDERS

58,6% experienced **endocrine-related conditions** such as obesity and infertility.

CARDIOVASCULAR COMPLICATIONS

42,1% reported **heart-related issues**, most frequently tachycardia or palpitations. Additionally, 5.4% presented with heart failure.

NEUROCOGNITIVE AND ACADEMIC DIFFICULTIES

31,9% **reported memory** and learning difficulties.

Inequity in Access to Mental Health Services

Only **35,7%** of survivors had **access to adequate mental health services**,

while **23%** reported **barriers including financial limitations** and time constraints.

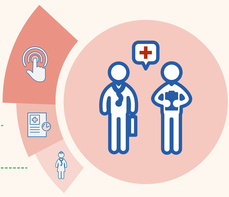
It is crucial to strength access to psychological care, to prevent further deterioration of mental health.

Limited Access to Follow-Up Information and Medical Care

78% received instructions for follow-up.

48,4% reported that they rarely visit their doctor.

Only **33,3%** had a primary care physician.



Interest in Education About Late Effects

88,7%

Expressed interest a **desire to better understand the long-term physical and mental consequences** of their treatment

61,5%

Identified **social media as their preferred source** for receiving health-related information.

Academic and Employment Challenges

49,2%

Reported **academic challenges** related to their cancer treatment.

Many survivors also **face difficulties entering the workforce** as a consequence of the disease and its long-term treatment effects.

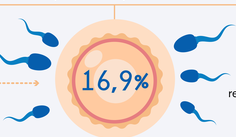
59,7%

Did not receive educational support after treatment.

This highlights the **need for job training programs** and workplace accommodations.

Impact of Fertility and Fertility Preservation Awareness

A significant concern among survivors is **INFERTILITY**



reported as a frequent **LATE EFFECT**.

However, at least **31.5% of survivors were unaware of their fertility status prior to treatment.** Greater awareness and access to fertility preservation options are needed, particularly in Latin America, where resources in this area remain limited.

Resilience and Adaptation

Despite these challenges, many survivors demonstrated

REMARKABLE RESILIENCE

reporting

SATISFACTION WITH THEIR LIVES AFTER CANCER,

suggesting that, with adequate support, adaptation and well-being are possible.

WHAT ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN?

Promote fertility preservation

Guarantee that all survivors are informed about and have access to fertility preservation options.

Promote education on late effects

Inform survivors and their families about long-term risks and the importance of regular medical follow-up.

Improve access to healthcare

Promote continuous access to trained healthcare professionals and services to manage the late effects of treatment.

Highlight the importance of mental health

Increase psychological support and access to mental health services for childhood cancer survivors.

Strengthen educational and employment support

Develop academic and vocational support programs to help survivors reintegrate into society and overcome barriers resulting from their treatment.

Education for healthcare professionals: Provide ongoing training for health professionals on the long-term effects of childhood cancer and the comprehensive care survivors require, ensuring an empathetic, up-to-date, and patient-centered approach.

Childhood cancer survivors **must be recognized as a priority population in national health policies.** Continuous, comprehensive, and equitable care can transform their chances of leading full and productive adult lives.

Latin American Childhood Cancer Survivorship Consortium

Ana Carolina Izurrieta-Pacheco, Sara Perez-Jaume, and Anna Felip-Badicí (Hospital Sant Joan de Déu, Spain), David H. Noyd and Nicholas George (Seattle Children's Hospital, USA), Julia Challinor (University of California, San Francisco, USA), Nuria Rossell (Independent Researcher, El Salvador), María Fernanda Olarte-Sierra (University of Vienna, Austria), Daniel Bastardo Blanco, Soad Fuentes-Alabí de Aparicio, and Patricia Loggetto (St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, USA), Marcela Zubieta (Fundación Nuestros Hijos & Childhood Cancer International, Chile), Viviana Trigoso (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú), Valeska González, Carlos Frías, and Sinders Rincón (Faros de Vida, Latin American Survivors Network), Roberta Ortiz (WHO, Switzerland), Liliana Vásquez Ponce (PAHO, Washington D.C.).