

CANCER AND ENVIRONMENT FORUM

SESSION #2

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# Effect of air pollution on mortality and morbidity among young cancer survivors

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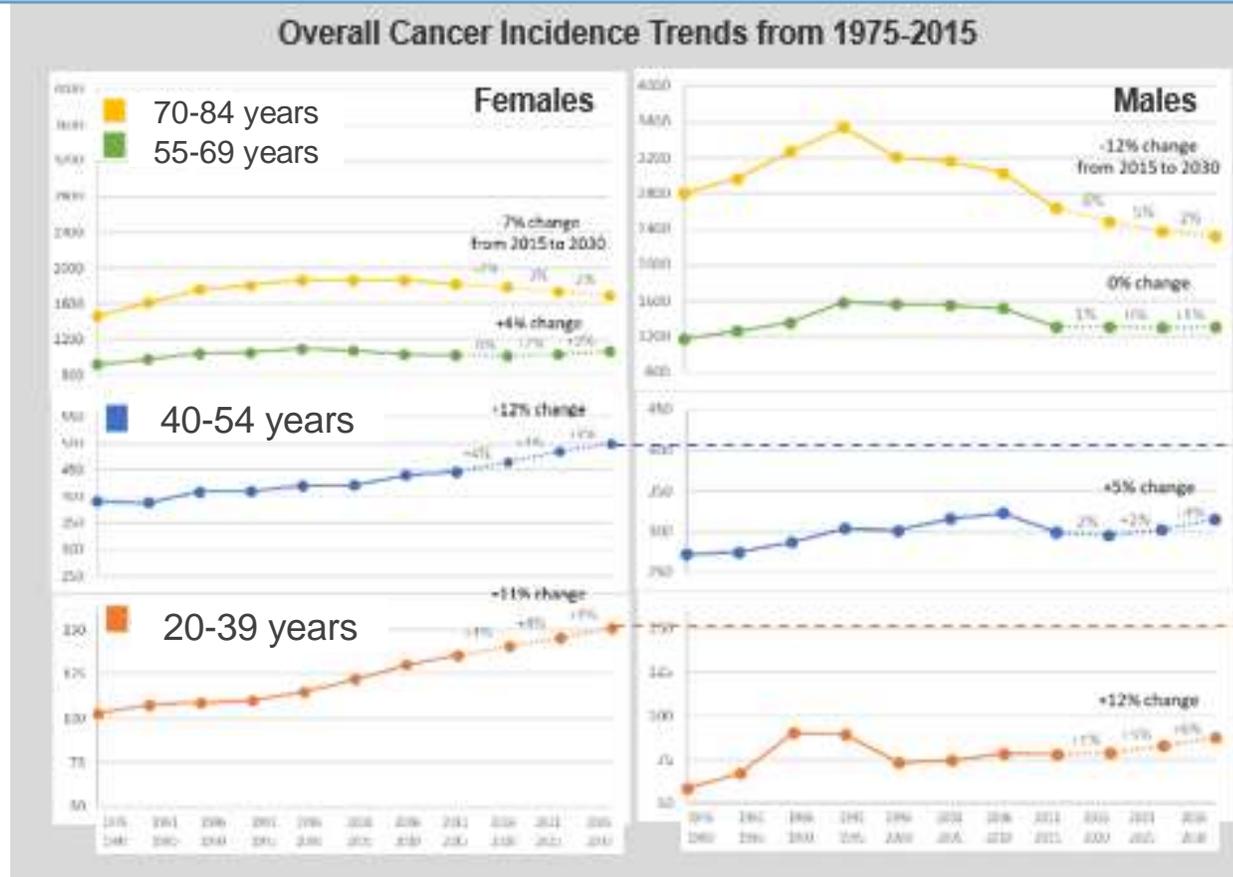
Cancer Control and  
Population Sciences

Huntsman Cancer Institute at  
the University of Utah

# Disclosures

I have no relevant personal/professional/financial relationship(s) with respect to this presentation

# Cancer incidence among children, adolescents, and young adults (AYA) has risen



After diagnosis, cancer survivors live in the same environments that likely contributed to their cancer

## Diagnosis



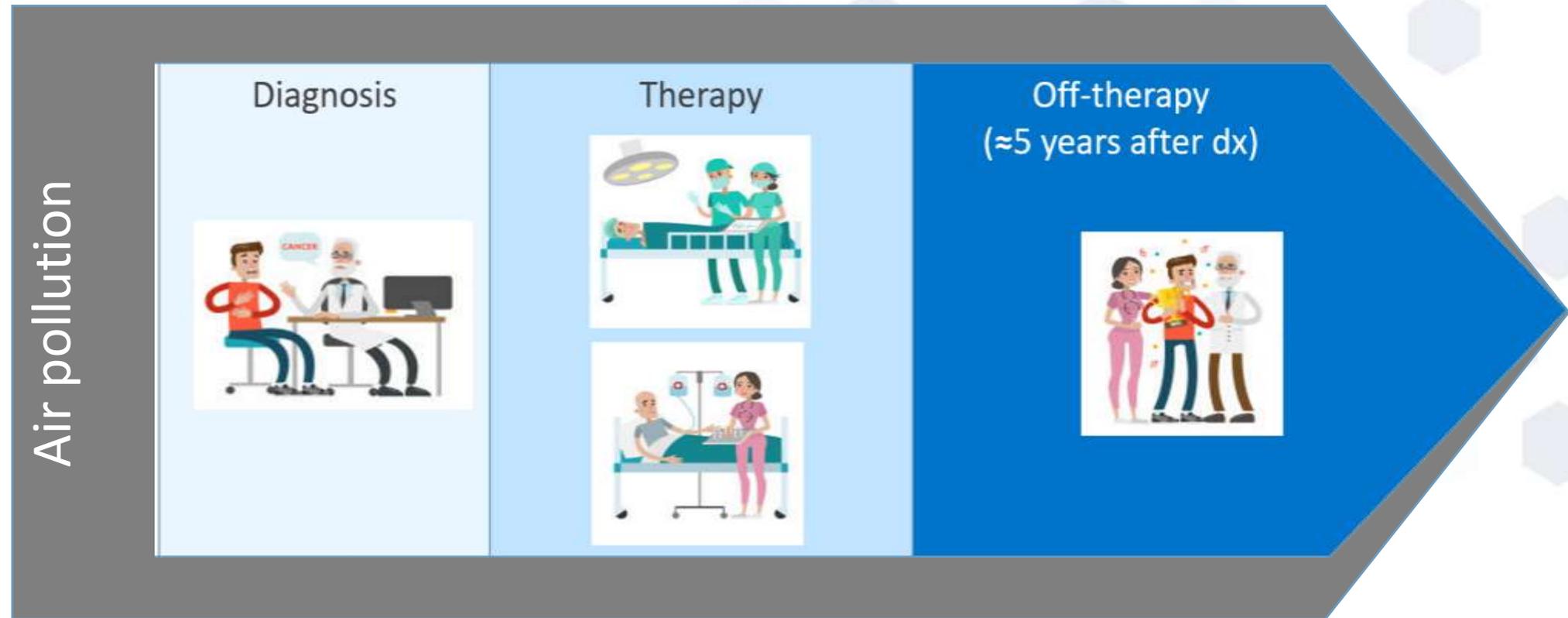
## Therapy



## Off-therapy (≈5 years after dx)



# Exposure to air pollution after diagnosis may influence outcomes by:



- Continued carcinogenesis after diagnosis

# Long-term PM<sub>2.5</sub> Exposure After Diagnosis And 5-Year Cancer Mortality Among Pediatric And AYA Survivors

PM <sub>2.5</sub> per 5 ug/m <sup>3</sup>	HR	95% CI
<b>Pediatric cohort (n=2,444; 0-14 years at dx)</b>		
All cancer types	1.12	0.98-1.28
CNS neoplasms <sup>1</sup>	1.30*	1.08-1.56
Lymphomas	1.34*	1.06-1.68
<b>AYA cohort (n=13,459; 15-39 years at dx)</b>		
All cancer types	1.06	0.99-1.12
CNS neoplasms <sup>1</sup>	1.20*	1.06-1.36
Carcinomas	1.14*	1.06-1.22

<sup>1</sup>Central nervous system and intracranial/spinal neoplasms

\*Significant at p <0.05 and 95% CI

^Marginally insignificant as indicated by 95% CI

# Long-term PM<sub>2.5</sub> Exposure After Diagnosis And 5-Cancer Mortality Among AYA Carcinoma Survivors

PM <sub>2.5</sub> ≥ 12 ug/m <sup>3</sup>	HR	95% CI
Breast	1.50*	1.29–1.74
Colorectal	1.74*	1.29–2.35

<sup>1</sup>Central nervous system and intracranial/spinal neoplasms

\*Significant at p < 0.05 and 95% CI; ^Marginally insignificant as indicated by 95% CI

Italics indicate analyses for PM<sub>2.5</sub> ≥ ug/m<sup>3</sup>

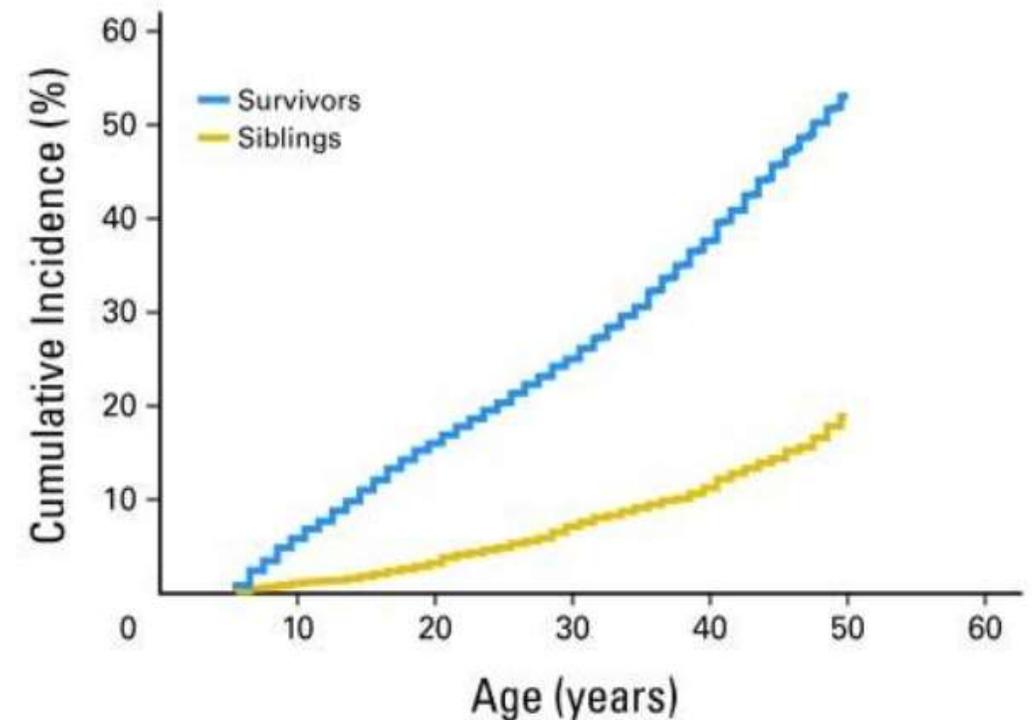
# Late therapy effects are a major concern

60% to 90% of childhood cancer survivors develop one or more chronic health conditions in adulthood.

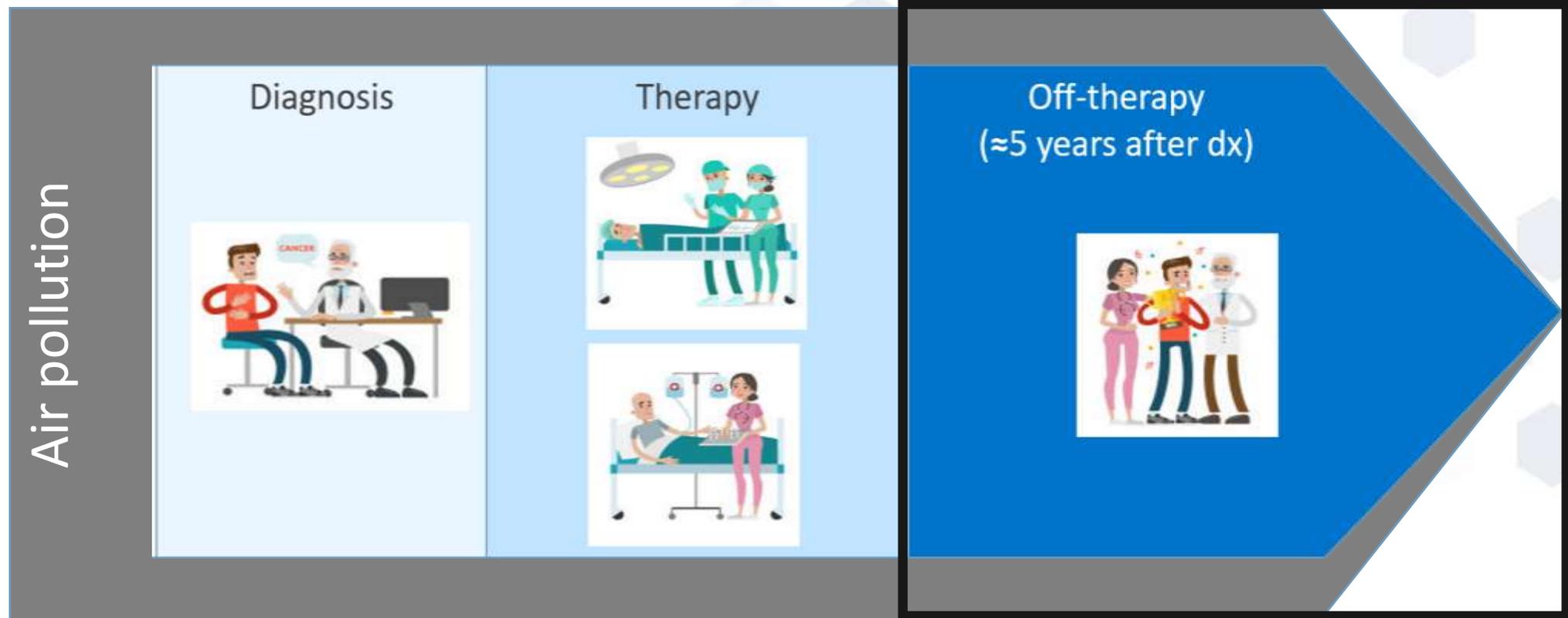
Leading non-cancer causes of death in childhood cancer survivors:

- Cardiovascular disease
- Infection
- Pulmonary disease

Cumulative incidence of grade 3 to 5 chronic health conditions among adult survivors of childhood cancers

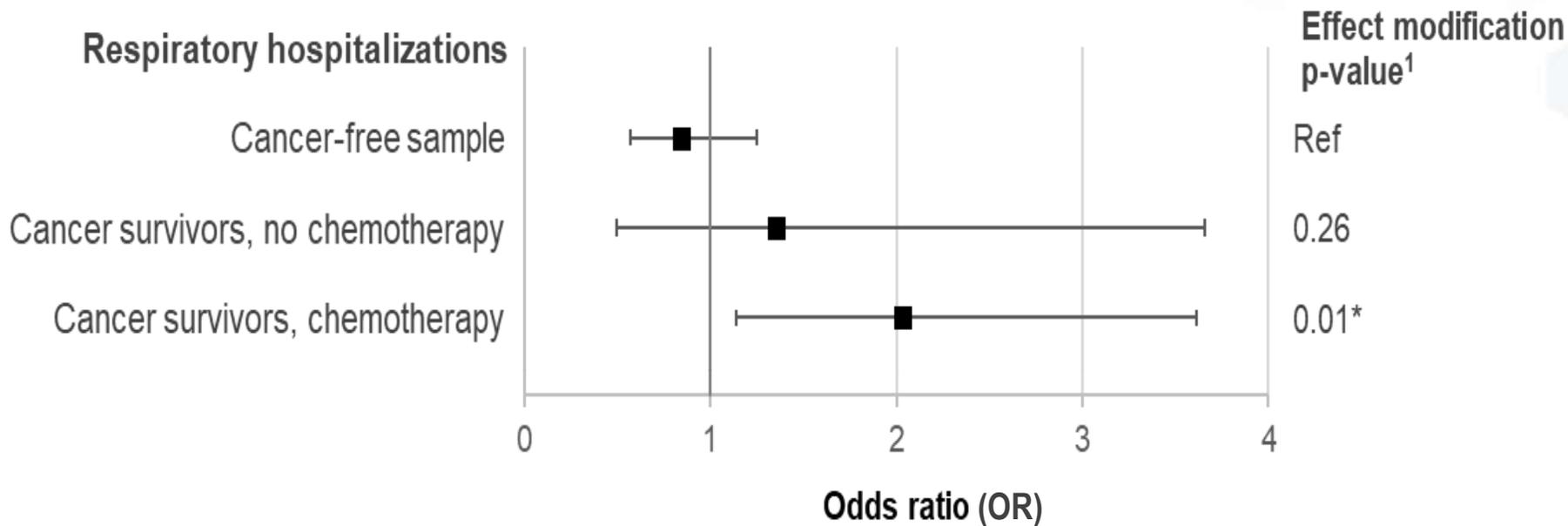


Exposure to air pollution while off-therapy may influence outcomes by:



- Therapy-related sensitization of the lung to air pollution
- Exacerbation of immunosuppression by air pollution

# Short-term PM<sub>2.5</sub> Exposure and Respiratory Hospitalizations among Childhood Cancer Survivors and a Cancer-Free Sample



<sup>1</sup>p-value to test for effect modification of association of PM<sub>2.5</sub> on outcome by chemotherapy treatment; cancer-free sample is the reference group; \*Significant at p<0.05

ORs among chemotherapy-treated survivors significantly greater than cancer-free sample

PM<sub>2.5</sub> and hospitalization for respiratory infection:  
OR<sub>survivors</sub>=2.09 (95% CI=1.06–4.14)



## Particle Pollution and Your Patients' Health



### Particle Pollution and Your Patients' Health

Learn about the biological mechanisms

This course is designed for family medicine physicians, internists, pediatric practitioners, nurses, asthma educators, pulmonary specialists, cardiologists

## Should I recommend that my patients reduce their exposure to particle pollution?

Yes. All people should be educated about the health effects from unhealthy levels of particle pollution and how to reduce exposure.

Patients more likely to be affected by particle pollution exposure that will benefit the most from exposure-reduction measures are:

- People with heart or lung diseases.
- People with diabetes.
- [Older adults.](#)

# Health Link

Healthy living after treatment of childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer

CHILDREN'S  
ONCOLOGY  
GROUP

The world's childhood  
cancer experts

## Pulmonary Health after Cancer Treatment

### What can I do to prevent lung problems?

- If you don't smoke, **DON'T START**.
- If you smoke, **QUIT!** Quitting is the most important thing you can do to keep your lungs and you healthy.
- Avoid second-hand smoke.
- Get regular physical exercise.
- Avoid inhaled drugs, such as marijuana.
- Avoid breathing toxic fumes from chemicals, solvents, and paints.
- Follow all safety rules in your workplace, such as the use of protective ventilators in some work environments. Report any unsafe working conditions to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

# CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians

Article |  Free Access

## American Cancer Society/American Society of Clinical Oncology Breast Cancer Survivorship Care Guideline

### Cardiotoxicity

Recommendation 3.3: It is recommended that primary care clinicians (a) should monitor lipid levels and provide cardiovascular monitoring, as indicated (LOE = 0); and (b) should educate breast cancer survivors on healthy lifestyle modifications, potential cardiac risk factors, and when to report relevant symptoms (shortness of breath or fatigue) to their health care provider (LOE = I).

# Opportunities for advancement and collaboration

1. Integrate recommendations for air pollution exposure reduction into survivorship guidelines
2. Acknowledge cancer survivors in public health messages about air pollution and cumulative risk assessment

# 3. Clinical interventions



## Clinical Screening Tool for Air Pollution Risk

An affirmative answer to any question is associated with increased cardiovascular risk.

### Household Air Pollution

**Does your household burn solid fuels (wood, coal, charcoal, dung, or agricultural residues) for cooking, heating, lighting or other purposes?** Yes No

- If "yes":*
- What type of fuel do you use?
  - What type of stove do you use?
  - How often do you burn solid fuel?
  - How much time do you spend around the fire?
  - Do you burn solid fuels inside the home?
  - How do you ventilate smoke from your house?

### Outdoor Air Pollution

**Do you live or work in an urban industrial center?** Yes No

- If "yes":*
- Are you aware of any sources of pollution near your home?
  - Do you perform physical exertion outdoors?

**Do you spend time near heavy traffic (e.g., multi-lane, high-speed roads)** Yes No

- If "yes":*
- Do you commute in traffic?
  - Are you exposed to the open air when driving?
  - Is your home located near major roads?



## 4. Interdisciplinary research

### Replication of studies on post-diagnosis air pollution and morbidity and mortality among survivors

- Turner MC et al.. Ambient air pollution and cancer mortality in the cancer prevention study II. Environmental health perspectives. 2017 Aug 21;125(8):087013.
- Coleman NC et al. Fine particulate matter air pollution and mortality risk among US cancer patients and survivors. JNCI cancer spectrum. 2021 Feb;5(1):pkab001.
- DuPré NC et al. Particulate matter and traffic-related exposures in relation to breast cancer survival. Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Biomarkers. 2019 Apr 1;28(4):751-9.

Identify outcomes from therapy-air pollutant interactions

Examine the impact of pollutants on therapy efficacy

Identify provider and patients' perceptions of environmental health

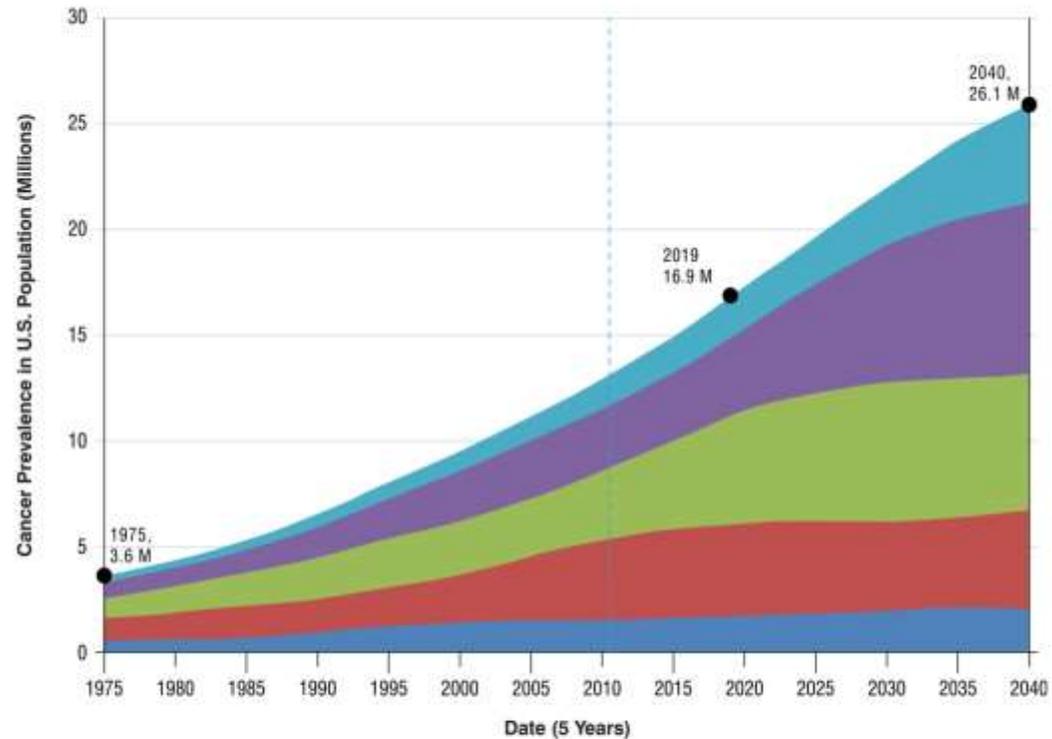
# Silence can be interpreted as no effect

*“I think [air pollution] can for sure, especially if [survivors] already had respiratory issues because of their treatment, it can be exacerbated by the air quality for sure.”*

*“I don’t [think there is a connection], I have never heard of anything of the kind.”*

# The number of cancer survivors and exposure to air pollution are both expected to increase in the near future

**Cancer Prevalence and Projections in U.S. Population from 1975–2040**



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Thank you

