



EHMA 2024

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**Labour market disparities among European cancer survivors
aged 50+ before and during COVID-19: evidence from the Survey
for Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe 2012-2021**

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Introduction

- The COVID 19 pandemic has challenged the healthcare access and labor market status of cancer patients and survivors in an unprecedented manner, bringing intense pressures to both cancer patients and the healthcare system, welfare services and labor market services, and forcing necessary reforms towards labor market and healthcare system resilience in Europe .

Objective

- Labor market disparities among cancer patients and survivors aged 50+ in Europe before and during the COVID 19 pandemic.
- We investigate the labor market status and potential disparities between adults aged 50+ with a cancer history and healthy adults before and during the pandemic, in 27 European countries and Israel
Data Source: the Survey for Health, Ageing and Retirement (SHARE).

Methods

- This research focus on the workforce aged 50+ in 27 European countries using data from the Survey for Health, Ageing and Retirement (SHARE) waves 4 – 8, years 2011- 2019) before the Pandemic,
- The the SHARE Corona Survey Wave 1 between June and August 2020 and SHARE Corona Survey Wave 2 between June and August 2021 (2nd SCS).

Samples

- Healthy aged 50+ population with no cancer history before the pandemic (n= 234,995) and during the pandemic (n = 51,095).
- Adults with a self reported physician diagnosis of cancer before the pandemic (n =14,266) and during the pandemic (n =3,649),
- Countries include Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Israel.

Outcomes

- We evaluated the disparities and trends on Employment status before and during the COVID 19 Pandemic;
- Work interruptions and length of work interruptions during the COVID 19 Pandemic;
- Retirement decisions during the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Results

Employment Patterns among Aged 50+ Adults in Europe 2010-2019 Healthy vs Cancer Patients and Survivors

Current Job Status (2010-2019)	Healthy Adults	Cancer Patients and Survivors
Retired	132,650(56.9%)	10,080(71.6%)
Employed (inc. self-employed)	66,563(28.6%)	1,807 (12.8%)
Unemployed	6,638(2.9%)	203(1.4%)
Permanently sick or disabled	4,841(2.1%)	906(6.4%)
Homemaker and other	22,254(9.6%)	1082(7.7%)

Data: Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) Waves 4-8. Release version: 8.0.0.

Results

Employment Patterns, and Work Outcomes during the Covid-19 among the Aged 50+ Adults Pandemic in Europe

Labor Market Status during the Pandemic(2020-2021)	Healthy Adults	Cancer Patients and Survivors
Retired before the pandemic	58,810(71.4%)	2,974(81.5%)
No interruption: Continuous working	20,727(25.2%)	613(16.8%)
Short interruption: 1-8 weeks	1,408(1.7%)	30(0.8%)
Long interruption: ≥ 8 weeks	1,440(1.7%)	32(0.8%)

Data: Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) Wave 8. COVID-19 Survey 1 and SHARE Wave 9. COVID-19 Survey 2. Release version: 8.0.0.

Results

COVID-19 Pandemic and Retirement Decisions among Aged 50+ Adult in Europe (Years 2020 and 2021) : Healthy vs Cancer Patients

	2020 and 2021	2020 and 2021
Retirement Decision	Healthy Adults	Cancer Patients
Retirement as planned	787(71.7%)	33(57.9%)
Retirement earlier than planned	192(17.5%)	20(35.1%)
Retirement later than planned	118(10.8%)	4(7.0%)

Data: Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) Wave 8. COVID-19 Survey 1 and SHARE Wave 9. COVID-19 Survey 2. Release version: 8.0.0.

Discussion

- The impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic in Europe may result in increasing labor market disparities between cancer patients and healthy adults aged 50+
- **Limitations:**
A small sample size of cancer patients and survivors aged 50 who are active in the labor market during the COVID 19 Pandemic in each country
- RESULTS Important for policy makers in the EU to design possible approaches to improve work outcomes, including policy and patient facing interventions

Conclusion

- During 2010–2019, cancer patients and survivors aged 50+ were less likely to be employed. During the pandemic, cancer patients and survivors aged 50+ were less likely to continue working.
- Disparities exist in early retirement decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic years 2020–2021, cancer patients and survivors were more likely to choose early retirement.
- Future research may focus on the effects of various government policies and programmes, in particular, the policy interventions towards coordination and cooperation between healthcare services and employment services.



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