

# ADOLESCENT & YOUNG ADULT CANCER

## ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO SURVIVE & THRIVE

# INSURANCE COVERAGE

## LACK OF INSURANCE IS A CRITICAL BARRIER TO SURVIVAL.

The 70,000 adolescents and young adults diagnosed with cancer in the United States have not experienced the same improvements in medical care and services as pediatric and older adult patients. This impacts their ability to survive their cancer and thrive long after treatment.

### DIAGNOSIS

Experience diagnosis delays

### TREATMENT

Take on increased out-of-pocket expenses

### SURVIVAL

Present with late stage, often less curable forms of cancer

While this is an issue for all Americans facing a medical crisis, adolescents and young adults feel the impacts of inadequate health insurance more acutely. In fact, cancer providers and researchers credit this as the number one barrier for survival when diagnosed with cancer between 15 and 39.



### ONE-THIRD EXPERIENCE LIFE TRANSITION

Report insurance change due to life transitions such as leaving home for the first time or starting a family



### ONE-QUARTER REPORT TIME WITH NO COVERAGE

Experience a period without health insurance after their diagnosis



### ONE-FIFTH SPEND OUT OF POCKET

Must budget for tests and treatment alongside other expenses like rent or tuition



### TWO-THIRDS HAVE NO ROUTINE FOLLOW UP

No routine medical care after treatment even though they are at higher risk for recurrence or a new disease

## FEDERAL ADVOCACY PLAN

Critical Mass supports federal policies that:

- Allow children to stay on their parent's insurance until the age of 26;
- Raise the threshold for minimum coverage so that when young people do get sick, tests and treatments are covered;
- Eliminate lifetime caps on benefits, which can be easily met when diagnosed with cancer at a young age; and
- Prevent insurance companies from denying coverage for a preexisting condition.

**IT'S TIME TO TRANSFORM THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF  
ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS IMPACTED BY CANCER.**

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#### SOURCES

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