



Lung Cancer Europe



8th **LuCE REPORT**
ON LUNG CANCER

November 2023

Financial impact of lung cancer: A European perspective

· Executive Summary ·

Description and methodology

This report is a descriptive research analysis that explores the economic burden of lung cancer, as reported by people diagnosed with the disease and those in a caregiving capacity. Data collection was through a self-filled online survey (active from May 26th until July 5th, 2023). This survey was completed by 1,161 participants (834 people with lung cancer and 327 caregivers) across 28 European countries.

Results

The cost of lung cancer

Most participants experienced both medical (73.5%) and non-medical expenses (87.2%) because of lung cancer. The costs reported most often were travel for medical reasons (83.7%), household utility bills such as telephone or heating (77.3%), and personal items such as dressings, bandages, and creams (72.3%). In addition, 62.9% reported a reduced household income since diagnosis. Half (49.5%) experienced a greater than 30% decrease in income compared to life before lung cancer.

Financial distress

Financial challenges as a result of the disease was experienced by 66.7%. A substantial number reported the following financial repercussions:

- 45.7% had difficulties paying expenses associated with lung cancer.
- 36.8% found it difficult to live on their usual household income because of lung cancer.
- 31.6% needed more than 20% of their household income to pay for expenses related to lung cancer.

Health repercussions

A total of 88.4% of people experiencing financial difficulties stated that at least one sphere of their lives was negatively affected. The main repercussions reported were on mental health (67.5%), and lifestyle and social activities (59.0%). Just over a quarter (26.5%) of participants (with or without financial difficulties) reported having made a decision that affected their self-care or adherence to treatment due to economic reasons.

Support and resources

A substantial number of participants stated that financial grants or assistance were not available for people with the disease (39.2%) or caregivers (46.7%) in their countries. Main sources of support were through loved ones (30.4%) followed by public healthcare (21.6%) and social support (20.6%). However, 40.8% of the participants who sought help from social services and 29.7% who sought support from healthcare systems did not receive the assistance that they needed. Support for costs related to medication and healthcare were identified as the financial support most needed (53.0%).

Call to action

- **Screen for financial toxicity and provide programmes to assist with costs, if financial vulnerability is detected.**
- **Increase income replacement programme coverage for people unable to work because of lung cancer or caregiving.**

Get in touch:



Lung Cancer Europe

Many Faces, One Voice

➔ www.lungcancereurope.eu ✉ info@lungcancereurope.eu



Full Report

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