



The Cost of Cancer: A Guide for Employers



Cancer is a top cost driver for employers.

Health care costs have increased by more than 50% from 2017-2025. Employers have absorbed most of these costs.¹

80% of employers rate cancer as the top driver of health care costs.¹ Approximately 4 in 10 adults will develop cancer in their lifetime.² A growing number of younger workers are getting cancer.^{2,3}



69% of individuals with cancer and survivors say they missed more than 4 weeks of work due to their illness. **39%** missed more than 3 months.⁴



The cost of care for the most common cancers for privately insured adults younger than 65 is approximately **\$156.2 billion**.⁵

Early detection and prevention can save lives and reduce the burden and cost of cancer.

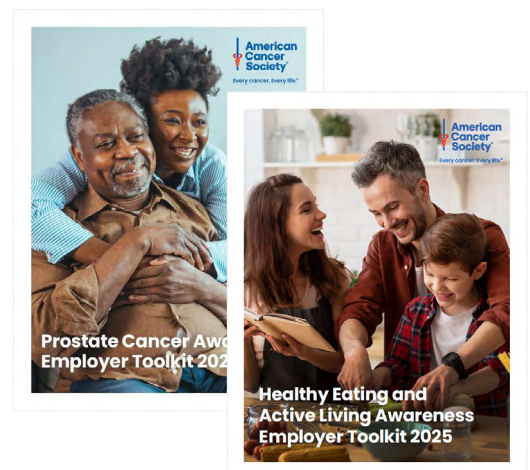
An estimated 4.5 million cancer deaths have been averted in the United States since 1991 because of improvements in early detection and treatment, as well as reductions in smoking.²

Promoting cancer awareness and investing in preventative care and employee wellness can make a positive, lasting impact.

Partner with ACS to invest in employee health.

At the American Cancer Society (ACS), we have a vision to end cancer as we know it, for everyone. Partnering with ACS is one way your organization can show its dedication to addressing cancer-related issues faced by your employees.

Resources from ACS include Employer Toolkits on the most common cancers as well as physical activity and healthy eating. These toolkits present turnkey messages to empower employees to take an active role in cancer prevention and early detection.



Visit cancer.org/becomeapartner to learn more about our partnership opportunities.

Early detection and preventive care can help bring down the cost and burden of cancer.

Regular screening tests may help find breast, cervical, and colorectal cancers early, when treatment is most likely to be successful.⁶

For most major cancers, an early diagnosis is 20%-30% lower in mean cost than a late-stage diagnosis.⁷

Cancer type	Mean cost savings (stage I vs. stage IV)
Breast	\$157,284
Cervical	\$121,944
Colorectal	\$159,041
Lung	\$262,508
Prostate	\$81,993

Promoting employee wellness can help lower people's risk of developing certain cancers.

People who make healthy choices are up to 20% less likely to develop cancer.²

You can promote cancer prevention and wellness by encouraging your employees to:

- Be physically active
- Eat healthy foods
- Get to and stay at a healthy weight
- Limit alcohol

Boost your return on investment.

By 2026, it is estimated that organizations with employer-sponsored insurance will see a 52% return on investment based on factors including increased productivity and lower direct medical costs.⁸

Employers who invest in and promote workplace wellness, including cancer prevention, can improve company culture, employee morale, and retention.



Get Involved

ACS exists to improve the lives of people with cancer and their families. We invite you to learn more about how you and your employees can join us to ensure everyone has a fair and just opportunity to prevent, detect, treat, and survive cancer. You can find all the opportunities near you in the [ACS Volunteer Community](#).

Name	What they do	What you can do
Road To Recovery [®]	Provide transportation to treatment and other cancer-related appointments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become a volunteer driver. • Create safety travel kits for volunteer drivers.
Hope Lodge [®]	Offer free lodging to people facing cancer and their caregiver when treatment is far from home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help make meals. • Provide entertainment. • Ensure that guests feel welcome during their stay.
Community events like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relay For Life[®] • ResearchHERS: Women Fighting Cancer[™] • Men Wear Pink • Gold Together • Making Strides Against Breast Cancer[®] 	Promote cancer awareness while engaging in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign up to lead or join a team. • Join a planning committee. • Volunteer your time to support an event through a one-day community giveback opportunity.
ACS CARES [™]	Empower patients throughout their cancer journey by providing information and support through an app.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become a virtual community volunteer and exchange messages via the ACS CARES app with people throughout their cancer journey.

There are also virtual opportunities to give back:

- [Virtual Challenges](#)
- [Health Equity Ambassadors](#)
- [Advocate for Policy Change](#)
- [Employee Engagement with ACS](#)

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