

The African Caribbean Immigrant Cancer Survivor Experience in the United States: A Scoping Review of the Literature

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PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION: Growing numbers of African Caribbean immigrants with cancer reside in the United States and frequently encounter different challenges than survivors born in the United States.

LITERATURE SEARCH: More than a decade of research was searched in the PubMed®, Embase®, CINAHL®, and Scopus® databases using terms reflective of African Caribbean immigrant survivors in the United States.

DATA EVALUATION: The initial search in this scoping review revealed 912 articles, with seven meeting inclusion criteria. Data extracted from articles included purpose/aims, design, sample/setting, methods, and results.

SYNTHESIS: Five retrospective analyses, one case report, and one qualitative study comprised the final sample. Thematic analysis used to synthesize results revealed two themes: survival patterns and barriers.

IMPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH: The results indicated a need to identify and address root causes of disparity, and track the effectiveness of available treatments and outcomes by country of birth. Research capturing the experiences of African Caribbean immigrants would benefit from collaboration with community leaders and survivors. Oncology nurses play critical roles in leading research and developing culturally informed practices in clinical settings.

KEYWORDS scoping review; immigrant; African Caribbean; cancer survivor; research

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Cancer is a serious and unrelenting problem among Black people in the United States. Black Americans have the highest death rate from cancer of any racial or ethnic group and experience the shortest survival after diagnosis. The highest cancer incidence rates occur among Black men (American Cancer Society [ACS], 2019). Factors implicated in the high cancer burden experienced by Black Americans are myriad and complex and include biologic, inherited, and cultural differences, which can lead to higher risk for cancer. Other equally important factors are socioeconomic disparities, barriers and obstacles to accessing high-quality cancer care, and structural racism, all of which may result in higher incidence and mortality from cancer (ACS, 2021). Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Black men, and breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Black women (ACS, 2019).

Non-Hispanic Black people currently comprise approximately 13% of the total U.S. population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). Non-Hispanic Black people are the second largest underrepresented ethnic group in the United States and are projected to comprise about 15% of the total population by 2060 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). Black Americans are a diverse group primarily concentrated in the South (ACS, 2019). The Black immigrant population has increased considerably in the past 40 years to a total of more than 4 million Black immigrants residing in the United States in 2013 (Anderson, 2015). Rapid growth in the Black immigrant population is expected to continue, particularly in the Miami, New York City, and Washington, DC, metropolitan areas, where as many as a third of Black people are immigrants (Anderson, 2015).