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Georgia Southern Examines Racial Disparities in Emotional Distress among Cancer Survivors

March 1, 2016



A cancer diagnosis can have a significant physical and emotional toll on patients as well as their caregivers. The purpose of this study was to examine the impact of race, cancer history, and their interaction on emotional distress among a nationally representative sample of US adults. Data utilized for this analysis were obtained from the first, second, and fourth iterations of the fourth cycle of the Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS). The study sample included 3959, 3630, and 3677 respondents for the years 2011, 2012, and 2014, respectively, for a total sample size of 11,266. A multivariable ordered logistic regression model was used to assess the relationship between emotional distress, race, and cancer history.

The effect of cancer history on emotional distress was found to be moderated by race. Specifically, emotional distress was significantly higher among African American cancer survivors. Factors found to be protective against emotional distress included healthy lifestyle, older age, and higher income. Factors associated with high levels of emotional distress included poor general health status, low self-efficacy, and being female.

The authors recommend the design, advancement, and implementation of evidence-based culturally sensitive interventions aimed at effectively screening and managing psychological distress symptoms, particularly among African American long-term cancer survivor patient populations

“[Racial Disparities in Emotional Distress Among Cancer Survivors: Insights from the Health Information National Trends Survey \(HINTS\)](#),” was published in the *Journal of Cancer Education*.

Dr. Bettye Apenteng, assistant professor at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) at Georgia Southern University, was the lead author. Dr. Andrew Hansen, Dr. Samuel Opoku, and Dr. Bill Mase, assistant professors at JPHCOPH were co-authors.

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Georgia Southern Reviews *101+ Careers in Public Health*

March 1, 2016



Dr. Gulzar Shah, Associate Dean for Research at the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University reviewed *101+ Careers in Public Health* by Beth Seltzer. Dr. Shah opined that it is a book that should be in the book collection of all who are interested in a career in public health, including current public health students and those who are indecisive about the career path but want to serve humanity through public health service.

Relatively few people outside the public health world understand the nature of jobs in the public health arena, the skills and competencies needed, or the agencies typically offering these jobs. This easy-to-understand guide offers insight into what constitutes public health, including its history and future. *101 Careers in Public Health* provides a broad overview of the functions and services the public health workforce can expect to perform and the type of research that can be beneficial to public health practice and policy. In addition, the book provides details on the educational credentials and degrees considered appropriate for public health jobs and ways to become a part of public health workforce.

The full review can be read [here](#).

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