

Abstract

Depression is very common in cancer patients, affecting about 1 in 5 people with such disease. This thesis uncovers determinants potentially contributing to the development of depression in patients with cancer diagnosis. Special emphasis is placed on how human mental health has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. The source of our cross-sectional dataset of U.S. population aged 18+ is NHIS. Two dependent variables are examined. The probability of taking medication for depression or anxiety is analyzed using logistic regression, and severity of depression symptoms is estimated by multinomial logistic regression. Several robustness checks are implemented. Additionally to coronavirus symptoms, other regressors include sociodemographic characteristics, household composition, educational attainment, health status and life satisfaction. The results show that women are more prone to depression, regardless of cancer diagnosis. The coronavirus symptoms significantly affect depression among people without cancer, but play no role for people diagnosed with cancer. Older people with cancer are less likely to develop depression, and household composition has vital impact on mental health of all respondents, with the exception of cancer survivors. Education is insignificant for patients in cancer treatment.

Keywords	depression determinants, cancer patients, COVID-19, logistic regression, multinomial logistic regression
Title	Who is more prone to depression? Analysis of micro-level data of patients with cancer.
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