

Loneliness Is a Risk for Cancer

A study shows the need for appropriate training of clinicians and screening for people living alone or in social isolation.

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U.S. adults who live alone are at higher risk of dying of cancer compared with those who live with other people, found a study by American Cancer Society researchers. Overall, adults living alone had a 1.32 times higher risk of cancer death, and the risk was greater among white adults and those with higher education levels. The study shows the need for appropriate training of clinicians and screening for people living alone or in social isolation, noted the report's lead author Hyunjung Lee, PhD. Possible solutions, she said, include "patient navigation programs for this population to increase uptake of and adherence to cancer screening, timely diagnosis, treatment and attendance of medical appointments."

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<http://beta.docker.cancerhealth.com/article/loneliness-risk>