

# Assessing the Association of Various Characteristics with Perceived Health Status Among Adults with Skin Cancer in the United States

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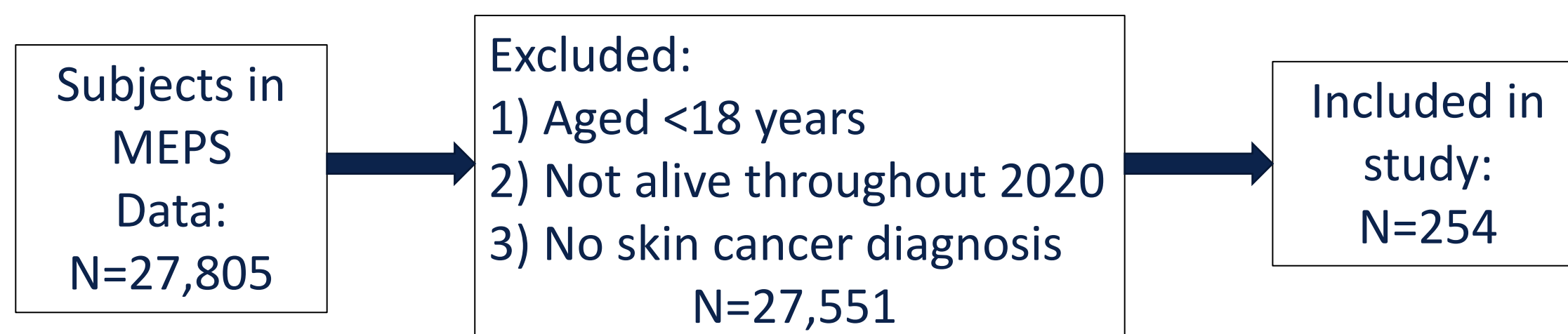
## Background

- Cancer diagnosis has been associated with negative psychological sequelae, such as anxiety, depression, and vulnerability.<sup>1</sup>
- In the context of skin cancer, various factors such as the severity of the disease, side effects of treatment, pain, and psychological stress may influence the patients perceived health status.<sup>2</sup>
- This study aimed to assess the association of various characteristics with perceived health status among adults with skin cancer in the United States.

## Methods

- This retrospective cross-sectional study used Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) data and included individuals who were alive throughout 2020, aged ≥18 years, and diagnosed with skin cancer.
- Participants' characteristics, depending on their perceived health status (good vs. poor), were compared using a chi-square test.
- An adjusted logistic regression model was used to identify variables that had statistically significant associations with perceived health status (good vs. poor).

## Figure 1. Selection Flowchart



**Table 1. Characteristics of study participants**

| Variables                            | Good Health<br>N=220<br>Weighted %<br>(95% CI) | Poor Health<br>N=34<br>Weighted %<br>(95% CI) | P-value |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---------|
| <b>Demographic Characteristics</b>   |  |   |         |
| Age ≥65 years                        | 68.3 (60.7-75.8)                               | 72.4 (56.0-88.9)                              | 0.5601  |
| Male                                 | 46.2 (37.7-54.6)                               | 54.6 (33.9-75.2)                              | 0.4480  |
| White                                | 99.3 (98.1-100)                                | 100   | 0.9210  |
| Divorced or separated                | 61.8 (54.4-69.2)                               | 52.3 (32.1-72.5)                              | 0.5823  |
| ≥Bachelor's degree                   | 60.6 (53.3-67.9)                               | 19.3 (5.1-33.5)                               | <.0001  |
| <b>Health Status Characteristics</b> |  |   |         |
| ≥2 Conditions                        | 49.4 (41.5-57.2)                               | 90.3 (80.9-99.6)                              | <.0001  |
| Non-smokers                          | 94.8 (91.7-98.0)                               | 91.3 (82.7-99.9)                              | 0.3713  |
| No physical limitations              | 83.6 (78.3-89.0)                               | 17.5 (3.0-31.9)                               | <.0001  |
| Pain limitations                     | 48.0 (40.1-55.8)                               | 92.9 (83.4-100)                               | <.0001  |
| <b>Economic Characteristics</b>      |  |   |         |
| Unemployed                           | 63.1 (55.0-71.1)                               | 65.0 (43.0-87.1)                              | 0.8649  |
| High income                          | 52.5 (44.4-60.6)                               | 28.7 (12.2-45.3)                              | 0.0587  |
| Private insurance                    | 65.7 (58.0-73.3)                               | 70.2 (55.2-85.3)                              | 0.5529  |

**Table 2. Association of good perceived health**

| Variables                            | Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI) |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Demographic Characteristics</b>   |                              |
| Age ≥65 vs. 18-33 years old          | 1.6 (1.2-2.3)                |
| White vs. other race                 | 1.3 (1.0-1.6)                |
| ≥Bachelor's degree vs. no education  | 1.7 (1.3-2.0)                |
| <b>Health Status Characteristics</b> |                              |
| Non-smokers vs. smokers              | 1.3 (1.1-1.7)                |
| <2 vs. ≥2 Conditions                 | 2.2 (1.9-2.7)                |
| No vs. yes physical limitations      | 4.4 (3.7-5.3)                |
| No vs. yes pain limitations          | 3.4 (2.8-4.1)                |
| <b>Economic Characteristics</b>      |                              |
| Employed vs. unemployed              | 1.4 (1.2-1.7)                |
| Private vs. public insurance         | 1.4 (1.1-1.9)                |

\*Only statistically significant characteristics were reported in this table

## Conclusion

- This study showed that good perceived health status was associated with several characteristics, which may be targeted for appropriate interventions to help improve health status among this population.

## References

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