Abstract: While social and environmental factors are associated with disparities in breast cancer screening and outcomes, no studies have examined the impact of these factors on cancer survivorship disparities. Upper body breast-cancer related lymphedema (BCRL) is a persistent adverse outcome of cancer treatment that affects the physical health and quality of life of up to 1 in 3 of the 2.9 million breast cancer survivors in the US. Observational studies have found that Black women are more likely than Whites to develop BCRL, and that there are geographic differences in prevalence rates. For those with BCRL, known predictors of progression include BMI, type of surgery and radiation treatment, all of which are associated with social factors. However, no studies have explored the association of race/ethnicity, geography or other social and environmental factors with BCRL progression. The purpose of this study is to explore the relationship between macro-(neighborhood) and micro-level (individual) social and environmental factors associated with BCRL to determine their association with health care costs. This work will serve as a template for exploring the persistent adverse effects of cancer treatment for other tumor sites.

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