

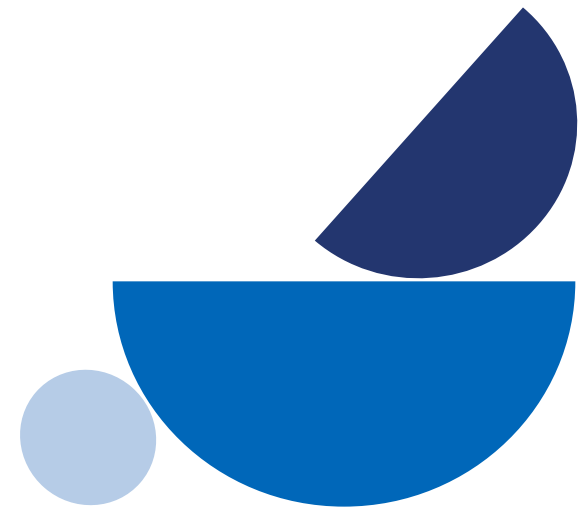
# The Hidden Cost of Cancer



# The financial impact of a cancer diagnosis

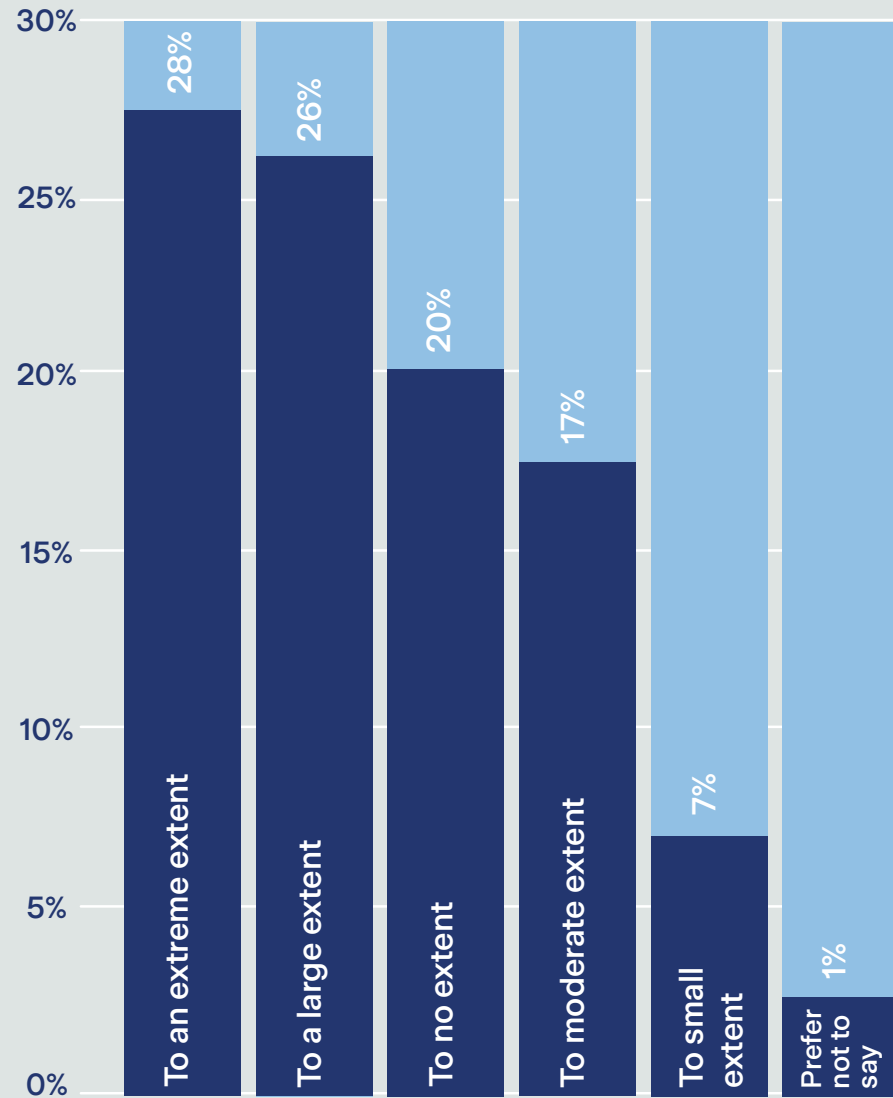
**OnePoll, on behalf of Zurich UK, surveyed 300 UK adults living with cancer, or adults who had been diagnosed or cured in the past two years, in August 2022. The survey revealed the hidden costs faced by those living with the disease, which are detailed below.**

When asked in what ways their finances had been affected, 34 per cent said that they were just about managing to pay their essential bills. 33 per cent said they had managed to cover additional outgoings with their existing income. Worryingly, 28 per cent claim they were unable to pay all of their bills following their diagnosis. 27 per cent said that life had been made easier by a pay out or benefit from a critical illness or income protection policy. 24 per cent said that financial pressures had forced them to return to work, while 22 per cent said that their partner had been forced to quit work to take care of them.



# To what extent has your diagnosis impacted your finances?

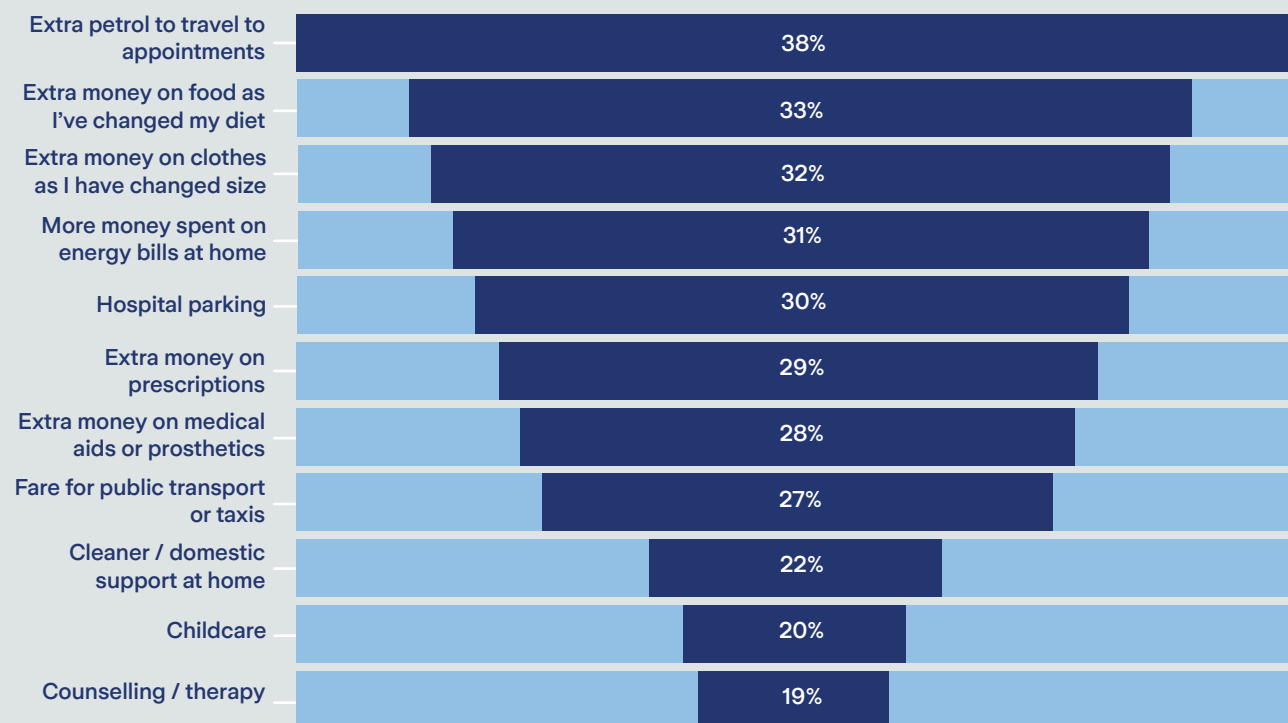
When asked to what extent their cancer diagnosis had impacted their finances, 28 per cent said it had done so to “an extreme” extent, 26 per cent to a “large extent”, 17 per cent to a “moderate” extent, and 7 per cent to a “small” extent. Just 20 per cent of respondents said their diagnosis had no impact on their finances.



# What additional expenses do those suffering with cancer incur?

The most common additional expense was petrol costs for travelling to appointments, with 38 per cent saying this was costing them more. A third (33 per cent) said they were spending more money on food as their diet had changed following their diagnosis. A further (32 per cent) had to spend more money on new clothes as they had changed size.

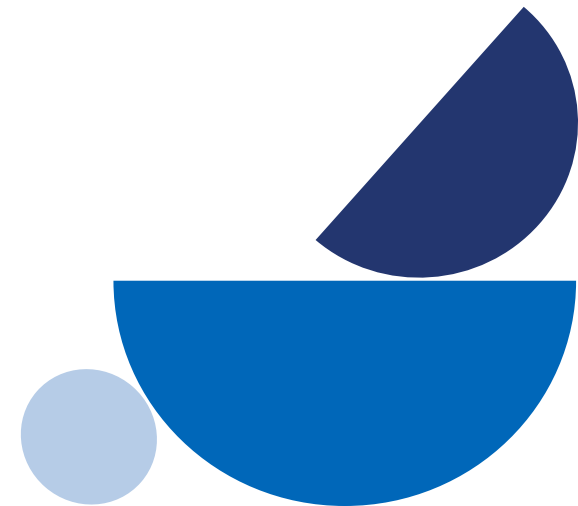
Some 31 per cent were spending more on energy bills to keep warm, 30 per cent on hospital parking, and 29 per cent on prescriptions. Meanwhile, 28 per cent had spent extra money on medical aids or prosthetics, 27 per cent on public transport or taxis, 22 per cent for domestic support at home, and 20 per cent for childcare. Roughly one in five (19 per cent) had spent extra money on counselling or therapy.



# Energy bills are the biggest financial concern

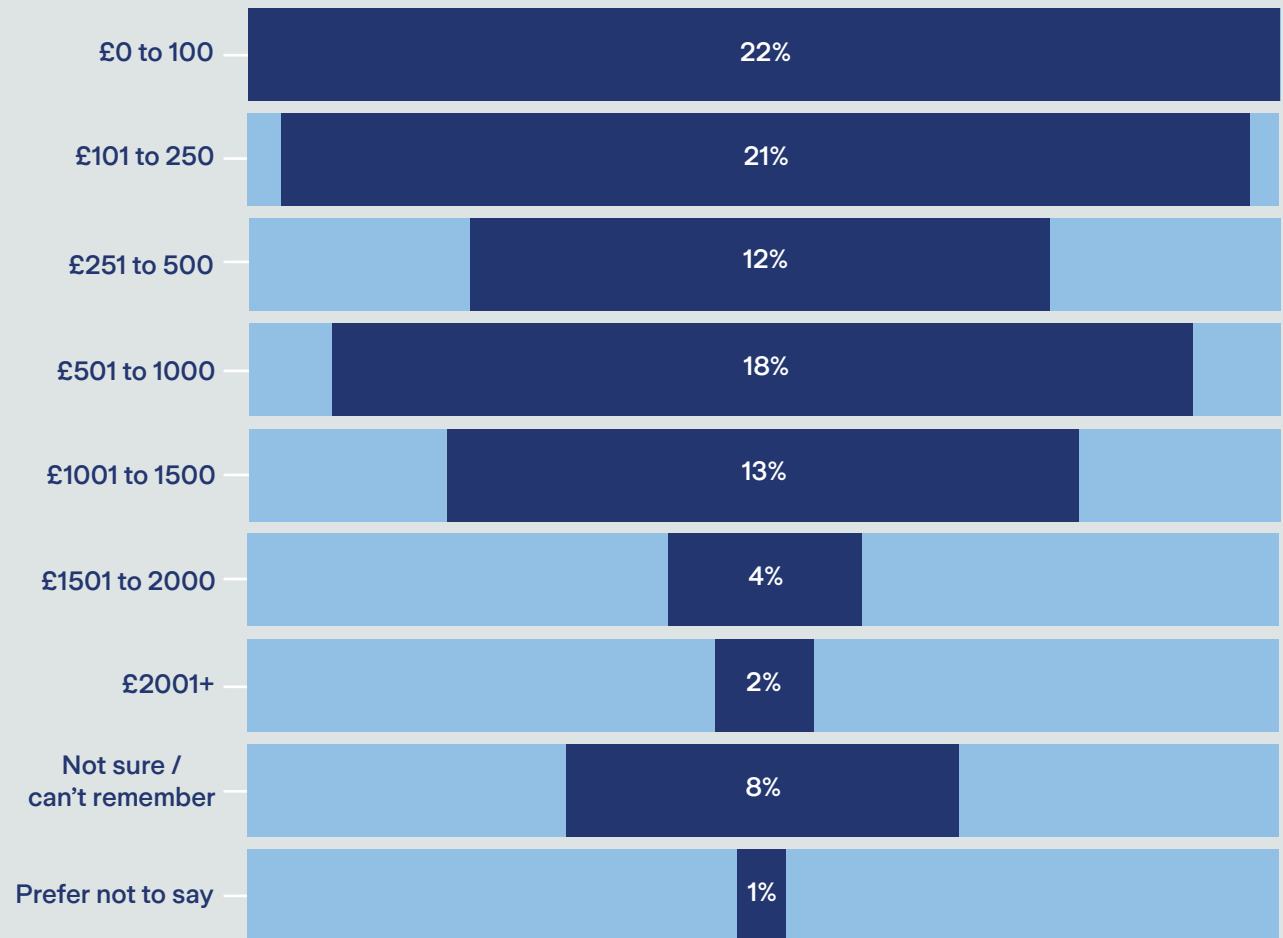
When asked for their biggest financial concerns following their diagnosis, 36 per cent said increased bills because of the cost-of-living crisis. 25 per cent said their biggest concern was how to pay their existing bills. 18 per cent said they were worried whether they would be able to hold down a job. 17 per cent said not being able to financially set up their dependents, 16 per cent said how to cover costs relating to their treatment, and 15 per cent said their biggest concern was how their dependents would be able to cover the bills if they were unable to.

Some 15 per cent said their chief concern was that they wouldn't receive statutory sick pay or continuation of their income from work if they take time off. 13 per cent said their biggest worry was how to cover their mortgage payments, 13 per cent said legal fees, and 10 per cent said how to cover additional childcare. Just 14 per cent said they had no financial concerns.



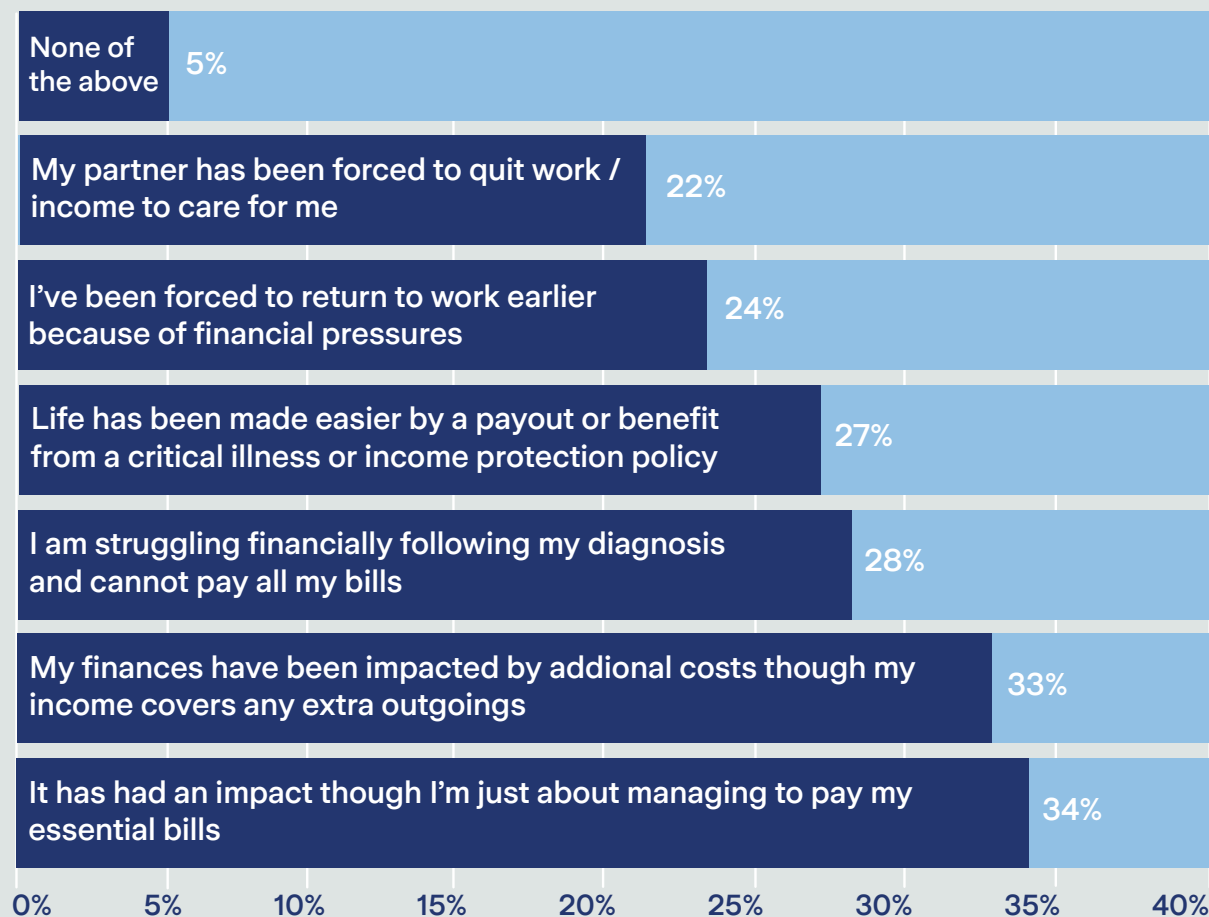
# How much more have you spent since your diagnosis/ during your treatments on a monthly basis?

When asked how much additional money they had spent since their diagnosis or during their treatment monthly, 22 per cent said up to £100, 21 per cent between £101 and £250, 12 per cent between £251 and £500, 18 per cent between £501 and £1,000, 13 per cent between £1,001 and £1,500, 4 per cent between £1,501 and £2,000, and some 2 per cent said more than £2,001. This averages to £541 each month or £6,500 over a year.



# Is the cost of living making the problem worse?

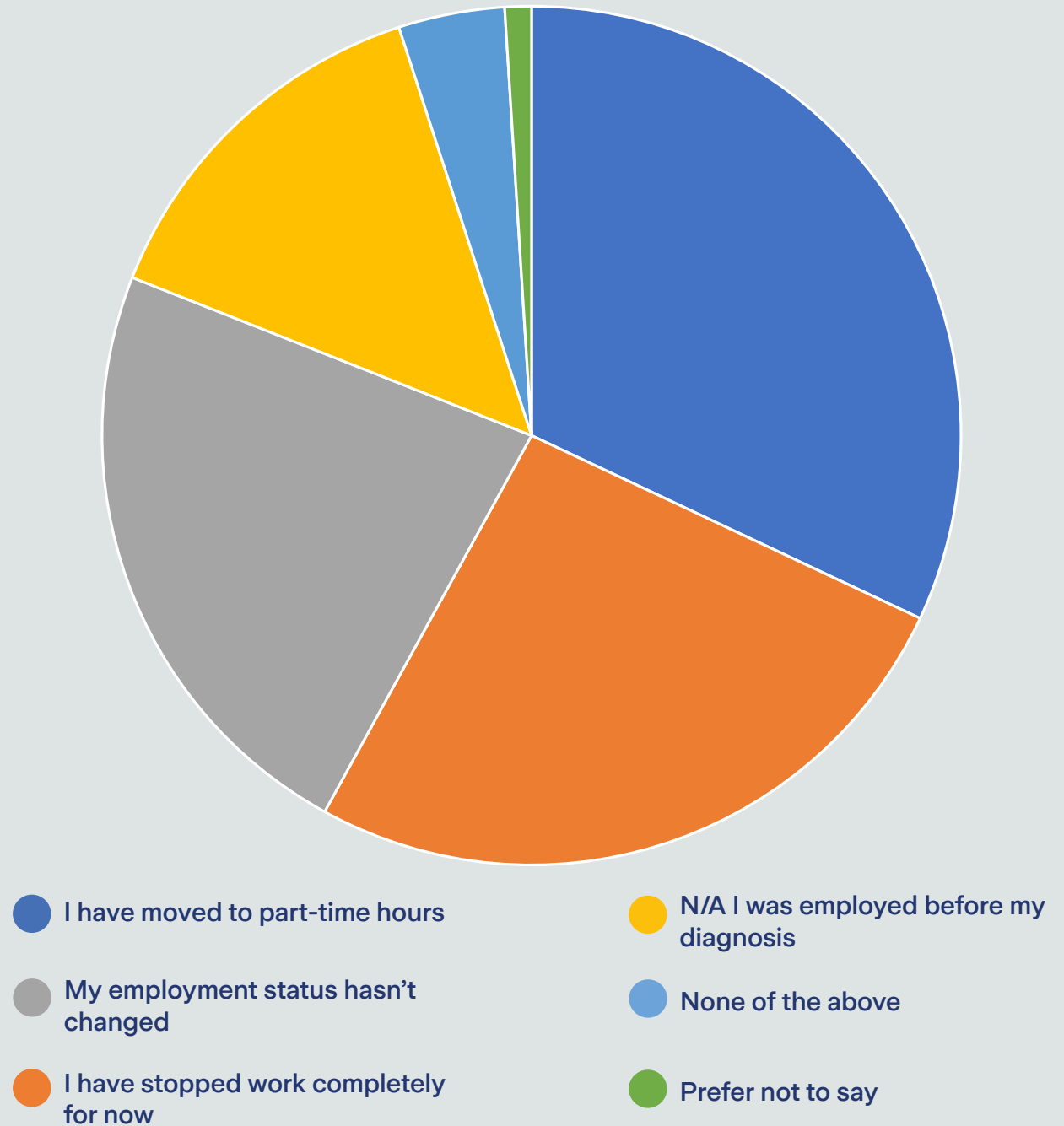
Respondents were asked to what degree they agreed with the statement, “changes in my bills and outgoings as a result of the cost-of-living crisis have added additional financial pressure to my situation”. Three quarters, (76 per cent) agreed with this statement. In addition, 49 per cent strongly agreed that these unexpected costs had an impact on their mental wellbeing.



# How, if at all, has your employment status changed since your cancer diagnosis?

Following their diagnosis, 26 per cent of respondents had stopped working completely. A further 32 per cent had moved to part time hours, while 23 per cent said their employment status hadn't changed. 14 per cent were unemployed before their diagnosis.

Of those employed, 47 per cent said they had benefited from continuation of income, specialist support services and full flexibility of time off for treatment and appointments. 36 per cent said they'd been able to access statutory sick pay and time off. 7 per cent said they had received no support from their employer.





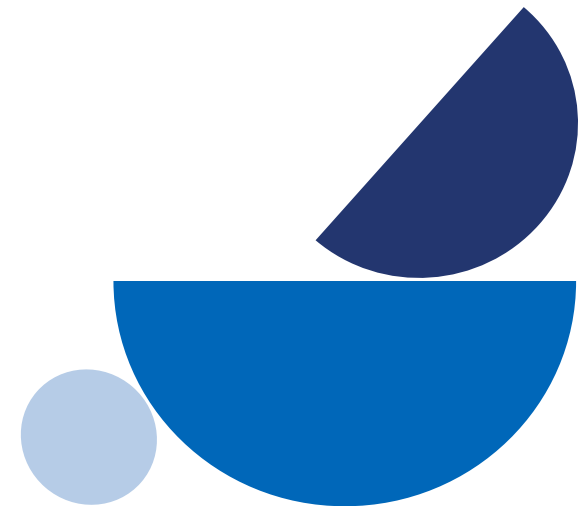
# Savings and safety nets

When asked whether they had a savings safety net or financial plan in place in the event of critical illness – for example a plan that involves critical illness, income protection or life insurance, or a savings pot, alarmingly 37 per cent didn't.

Some 48 per cent had put a financial plan in place before their diagnosis, 36 per cent after, and 10 per cent during their treatment.

Overall, 60 per cent of respondents had a savings safety net for when their income stops, while 31 per cent did not. Of those who did, 7 per cent said their savings would last them for between one and two months if their income stopped. 17 per cent said between three and five months, 23 per cent six to nine months, 25 per cent 10 to 12 months, 7 per cent 13 to 24 months, and 18 per cent more than 25 months.

Overall, 39 per cent said they had turned to savings to cover extra costs. 26 per cent had received a pay out from a critical illness or income protection policy. 26 per cent had borrowed money from friends or family, 25 per cent had sold assets. 24 per cent had turned to an overdraft, and 19 per cent had resorted to using short term loans.





**Zurich Assurance Ltd.**

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