



A scoping review of caregiver-identified priorities for support:

Focus on cancer caregiving

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INTRODUCTION

The vast majority of older adults living with cancer rely on informal caregivers.

Caregivers often require additional support to facilitate their role.

This subanalysis of scoping review results collates the priorities for support that are identified by caregivers to older adults living with cancer.

METHODS

The five-step methodology for scoping studies developed by Arksey and O'Malley (2005) was used for this review.

Review Management Software:



Inclusion Criteria:

- Peer-reviewed research of any design.
- Sample is caregivers to older adults (>55 years).
- Manuscripts published in English.
- The priorities for caregiver support were identified by caregivers themselves.

Exclusion Criteria:

- Sample population is caregivers to individuals other than older adults.
- Does not identify priorities for caregiver support.
- Priorities established within the report are not identified by caregivers.
- Protocols, abstracts, editorials, grey literature, and conference proceedings.
- Published in a language other than English.

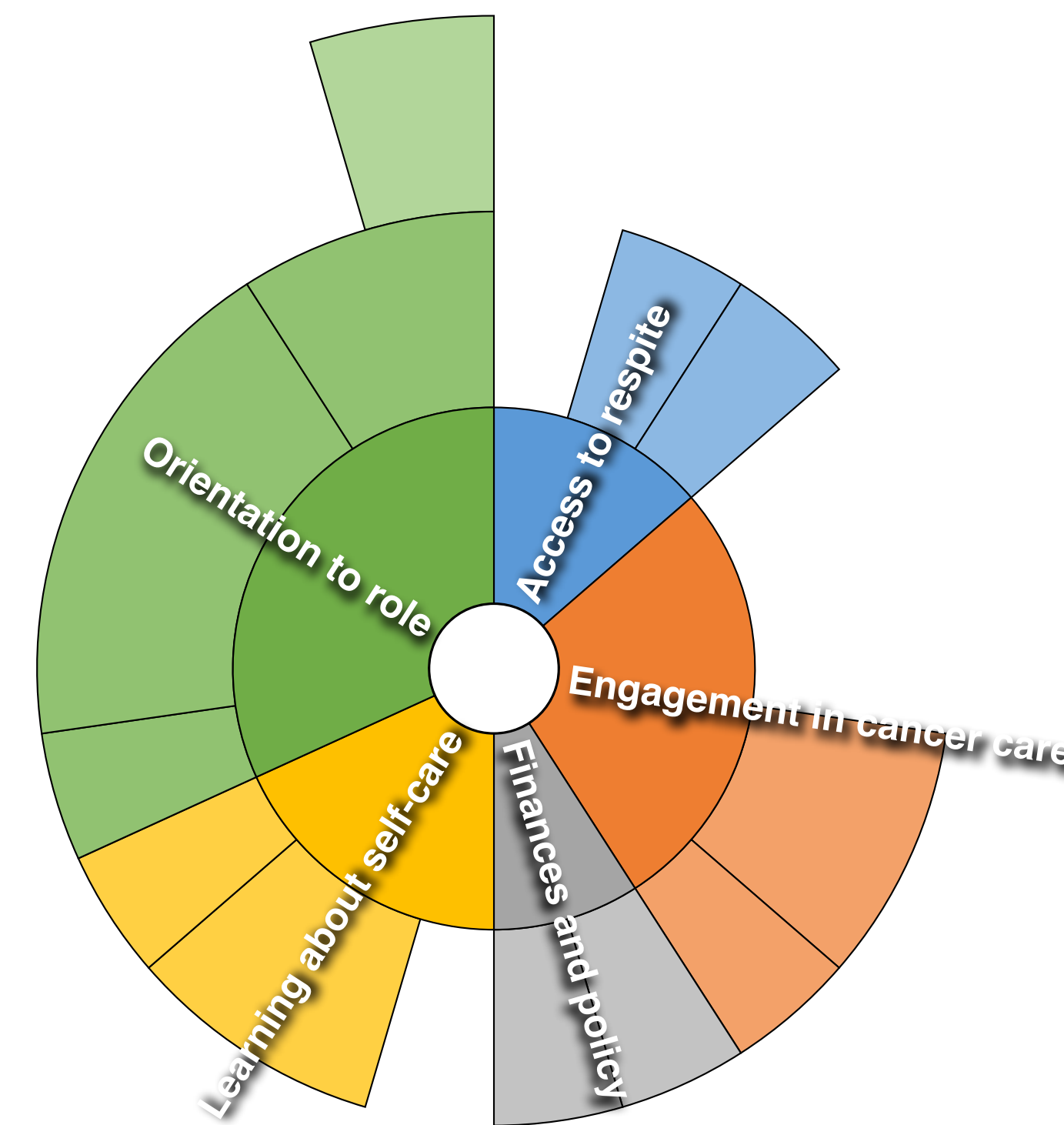
RESULTS

A total of **34 studies** met the inclusion criteria. **Six studies** focused specifically on cancer caregiving.

Five themes (Figure A) emerged from the priorities identified by cancer caregivers. Themes were quantified based on the number of codes for each theme and organized into a prioritized list:

1. Orientation to the caregiving role
2. Engagement in cancer care
3. Learning about self-care
4. Access to respite
5. Finances and policy

Content Analysis Sunburst Chart



Included Studies Specific to Cancer Caregiving

Author, Year, Place of Study	Aim of Study	Priorities Identified
Aoun et al., 2015 Australia	<i>Investigate the impact of using the CSNAT to identify support needs in end-of-life home caregiving.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Knowing what to expect in the future. 2) Having time to yourself in the day. 3) Dealing with your feelings and worries. 4) Understanding your relative's illness
Halkett et al., 2020 Australia	<i>Explore the lived experiences of carers of patients diagnosed with head and neck cancer.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Being available for care recipient. 2) Taking an active role in managing disease process.
Hand et al., 2018 United States	<i>Understand the needs of caregivers of patients with gynecologic cancers and support services necessary to meet these needs.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Accepting help from others. 2) Need to care for themselves as caregivers. 3) Access to high-quality information. 4) Need for the healthcare team to communicate with the caregivers.
Lambert et al., 2019 Canada	<i>Engage caregivers and other stakeholders to identify priority topics for caregiver research in cancer care.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Home care interventions. 2) Caregiver perspectives on how support and information can best be provided to them by HCPs. 3) Identifying caregivers at greatest risk for burden. 4) Financial impacts and direct costs. 5) Resources about death and dying.
Sinfield et al., 2012 United Kingdom	<i>Explore the needs of carers of men with prostate cancer and to identify barriers and enablers to meeting these needs.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Better signposting to information and sources of support. 2) Assessment of carer's needs.
Thomas et al., 2021 United States	<i>Summarize caregivers' recommendations for research and clinical priorities in cancer caregiving.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Training and information about cancer and treatment. 2) Caregiver integration into patient's healthcare delivery. 3) Assistance with navigating the healthcare system. 4) Focus on caregiver health and well-being. 5) Policy reform to address caregivers.

CONCLUSION

Researchers have previously engaged caregivers in setting priorities for support interventions.

This subanalysis of scoping review results presents a synthesized list of cancer caregivers' priorities for support.

Policymakers, healthcare professionals, and non-profit organizations can use evidence from this study to guide decisions when developing support interventions for caregivers to older adults with cancer.

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