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## THE IMPACT OF ONLINE PROGRAMMING FOR CANCER PATIENTS

We examined how online programming sponsored by Wellspring Canada has impacted cancer patients, specifically, the effects on their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. A secondary goal of this program evaluation was to make recommendations on improvements to programming. Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, many organizations such as Wellspring Edmonton have had to shift to an online-based approach to allow for continued access for their members. The sudden shift of moving into online programming caused a significant learning curve for organization staff, volunteers, and members. This study will serve to evaluate the impact on participants. Six Wellspring Edmonton members were recruited as participants. They completed an interview consisting of ten questions administered through Google Forms. Through a thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006), we found six themes that reflect the following: social connection, positive emotions, growth and gains, challenges and difficulties, and easy accessibility.

Our findings showed many positive outcomes through online programming, however, there were still challenges.

***Research Advisor: Dr. Wendy Pullin***