

# HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

## The Experience of People with Serious Illness



Eric Schneider, Melinda Abrams, Arnav Shah, Corinne Lewis, and Tanya Shah

# APPENDIX

The following appendix is part of a Commonwealth Fund report, E. Schneider, et al., *Health Care in America: The Experience of People with Serious Illness* (Commonwealth Fund, October 2018).

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**APPENDIX 1. HELPLESSNESS AND ITS CONSEQUENCES AMONG THE SERIOUSLY ILL**

	%	Populaton estimate (millions)
In recent years, there was a time when they were receiving health care and felt anxious, confused, or helpless about their situation	62%	25.1
As a result of medical or health condition, any of the following happened:	73%	29.7
Wanted to work but were unable to	53%	21.6
Unable to do their job as well as they could before	51%	20.6
Condition caused them emotional or psychological problems	48%	19.5
Lost a job or had to change jobs	29%	11.6
Had a problem caring for another family member who was dependent on for their care	26%	10.4
Stayed in a job longer than otherwise would in order to maintain health insurance coverage	20%	8.0

Data: Commonwealth Fund/*New York Times*/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Being Seriously Ill in America Today*, July 6–Aug. 21, 2018. n= 746.

**APPENDIX 2. PROBLEMS WHEN RECEIVING CARE AMONG THE SERIOUSLY ILL**

	%	Populaton estimate (millions)
When getting care from a doctor/hospital staff for your medical or health condition, were any of the following a problem?	61%	24.7
Understanding what your health insurance covers	31%	9.1
You were sent for duplicate tests or diagnostic procedures by different doctors or nurses	29%	8.5
Receiving conflicting recommendations from different health professionals	23%	6.8
Hospital staff was not responsive to your needs	22%	8.9
Understanding your doctor bill	21%	6.3
Your medical records or test results did not reach your doctor's office in time for your appointment	17%	5.2
You could not understand what was being done to you (hospital)	15%	6.1
Understanding the instructions for a prescription medication you were taking	14%	4.2
Difficulty scheduling hospital admissions, tests, or discharges	13%	5.3
Transportation to/from hospital	13%	5.4

Data: Commonwealth Fund/*New York Times*/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Being Seriously Ill in America Today*, July 6–Aug. 21, 2018. n=616–750.

**APPENDIX 3. FINANCIAL BURDEN OF CARE FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL**

	%	Population estimate (millions)
In recent years, have experienced any of the following as a result of dealing with medical or health condition:	53%	21.4
Used up all or most of savings	37%	15.0
Contacted by a collection agency	31%	12.5
Unable to pay for basic necessities like food, heat, housing	23%	9.3
Borrowed money to get a loan or another mortgage	13%	5.2
Couldn't buy health insurance because of having another medical or health condition	11%	4.4
Declared bankruptcy	4%	1.6

Data: Commonwealth Fund/*New York Times*/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *Being Seriously Ill in America Today*, July 6–Aug. 21, 2018. n=746.