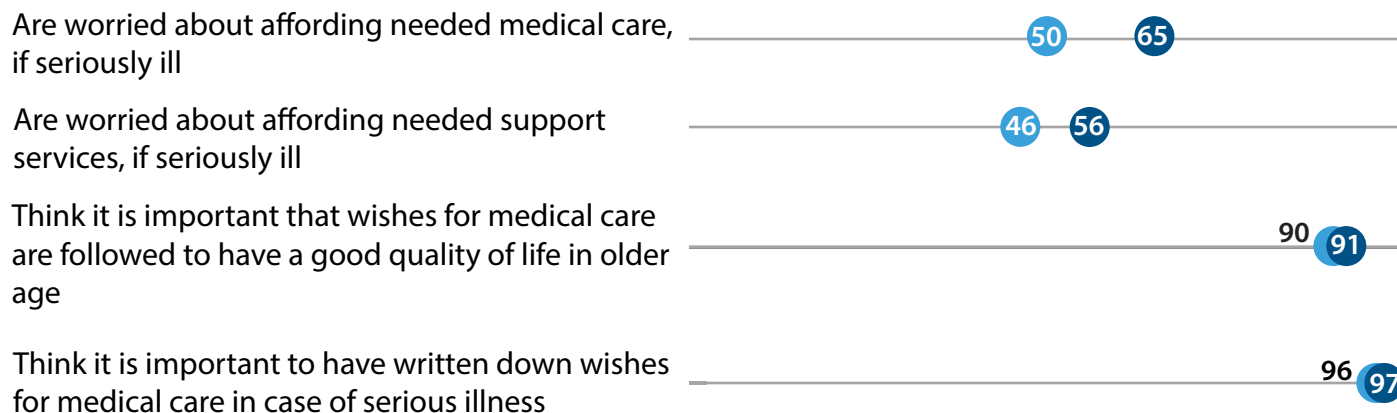


# While Many People Are Worried About Facing Challenges If Seriously Ill, Fewer Have Taken Steps To Prepare

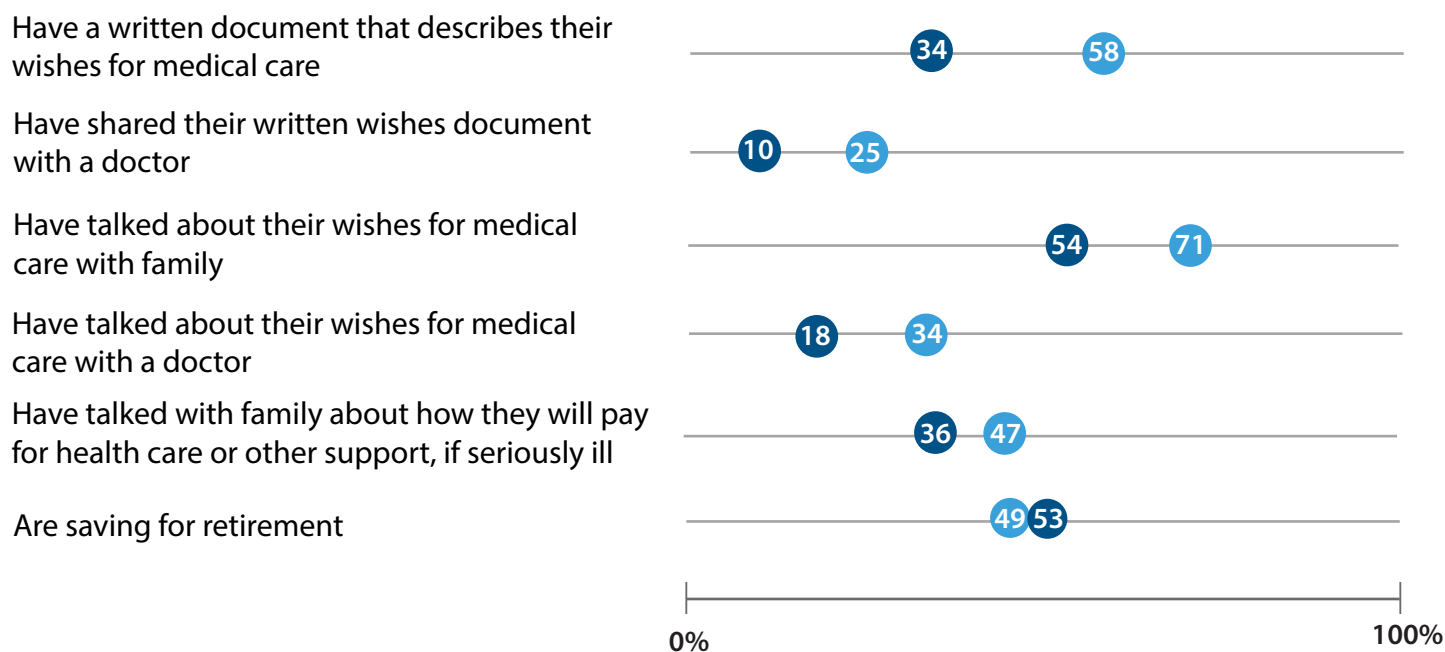
**Many people are personally concerned about these issues and think they are important.**

% of the public who say they...

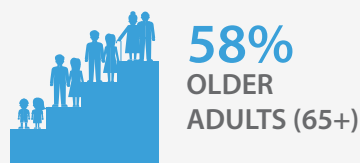
● TOTAL ● 65 OR OLDER



**But smaller shares have taken steps to plan for the potential that these issues will affect them.**



**Who Is More Likely To Have a Written Document Outlining Their Wishes for Medical Care?**



SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation Serious Illness in Late Life Survey, 2017

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Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues, the Kaiser Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Menlo Park, California.

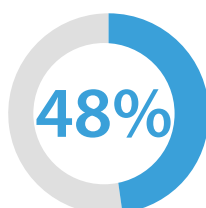
THE HENRY J.  
KAISER  
FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

# Documenting Wishes for Medical Care Helps Older Adults with Serious Illness Feel Like Their Wishes Are Followed and Their Family Members Know What They Want

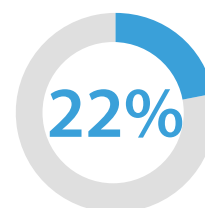
Among family members of older adults with serious illness...

60%

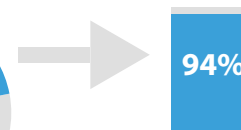
report that their **loved one has a document describing their wishes** for medical care



know where it is



have referred to it



Nearly all who have referred to it say it was helpful

Family members of older adults with serious illness **are much more likely to say they know exactly what sort of medical care their loved one wants if they have a written document** describing their wishes than if they don't.

*% of family members of older adults with serious illness who say they know "exactly" what their loved one wants*

53%



Has a written document

23%



Do NOT have a written document

Older adults with serious illness and their family members **are more likely to say their wishes are being followed if they have a document describing their wishes for medical care** than if they don't.

*% saying wishes of older adults with serious illness are "very" closely followed*

Has a written document



70%

Does NOT have a written document



54%

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation Serious Illness in Late Life Survey, 2017

NOTE: For this survey, those who are seriously ill are older adults (65+) who have at least one of several chronic conditions and report functional limitations due to a health or memory problem.

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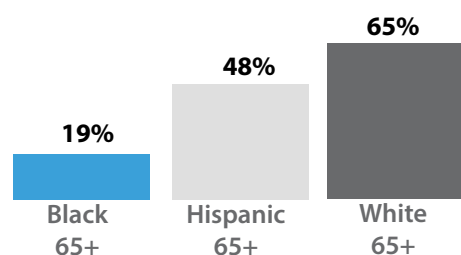
Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues, the Kaiser Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Menlo Park, California.

# Actions To Prepare for Serious Illness in Late Life Vary for Blacks, Hispanics, and Whites

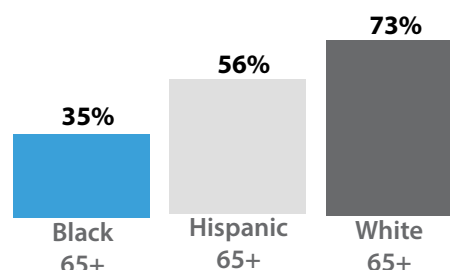
**Older Black adults (65+) are less likely** than older Whites and older Hispanics **to report having written wishes**

% with document that...

describes their wishes for medical care if they become seriously ill



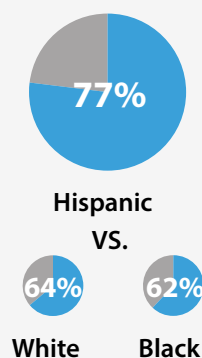
names who they want to make decisions about their medical care if they can no longer make them on their own



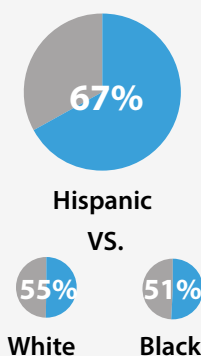
**Hispanic adults are more likely** than White or Black adults **to be worried about facing challenges** if they become seriously ill when they're older.

% who say they are worried they may...

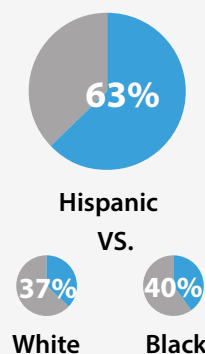
have trouble affording the medical care that they need



have trouble affording the support services that they may need

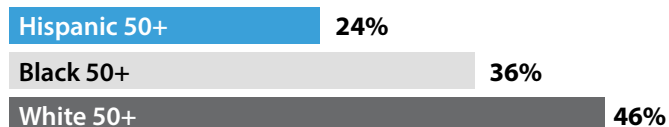


leave debts to their family when they die

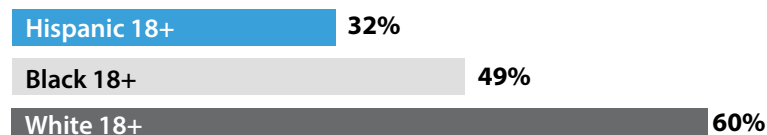


**Hispanics are less likely** to say they've take steps to plan for their own needs as they age.

Set aside money that could be used for ongoing living expenses

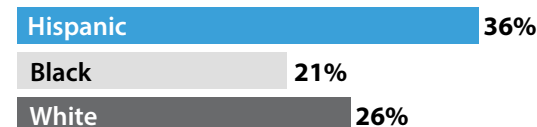


Currently saving for retirement, among those not already retired

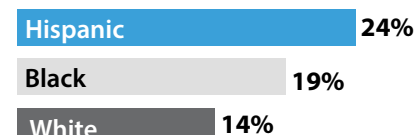


**Hispanics age 65 or older who are personally seriously ill** are **more likely** to report facing challenges getting and affording care.

It is difficult to get needed help with everyday activities



Cost recently prevented them from getting the help they need



SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation Serious Illness in Late Life Survey, 2017

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# Older Adults with Serious Illness Report a Variety of Challenges

Older adults with serious illness face a significant set of challenges, including...

Forgetfulness



Sadness or Depression



Loneliness



Understanding Medical Instructions



Preparing Meals



Getting to Medical Appointments



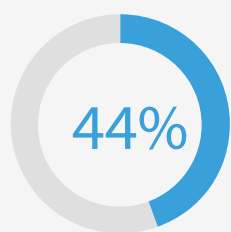
Paying for Support Services



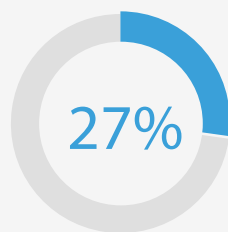
Paying for Medical Tests or Treatments



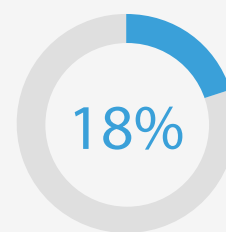
Some older adults with serious illness and their family members say they...



NEED HELP MORE OFTEN



HAVE HAD TROUBLE  
GETTING NEEDED HELP



DIDN'T GET NEEDED HELP  
BECAUSE OF COST

Family members of older adults with serious illness report helping their loved one with a variety of tasks, such as...

Transportation



Everyday Activities



Coordinating Care



Managing Finances



Medical-Nursing Tasks



51%

of family members who help **spend several hours a day** caring for their loved one with serious illness

21%

of family members who provide help with everyday activities say **there's no one to give them a break**

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation Serious Illness in Late Life Survey, 2017

NOTE: For this survey, those who are seriously ill are older adults (65+) who have at least one of several chronic conditions and report functional limitations due to a health or memory problem.

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