

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

Are worried about affording needed medical care, if seriously ill

50 65

Are worried about affording needed support services, if seriously ill

46 56

Think it is important that wishes for medical care are followed to have a good quality of life in older age

90 91

Think it is important to have written down wishes for medical care in case of serious illness

96 97

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

Have a written document that describes their wishes for medical care

34 58

Have shared their written wishes document with a doctor

10 25

Have talked about their wishes for medical care with family

54 71

Have talked about their wishes for medical care with a doctor

18 34

Have talked with family about how they will pay for health care or other support, if seriously ill

36 47

Are saving for retirement

49 53

0%

100%

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



58%
OLDER
ADULTS (65+)



44%
COLLEGE
EDUCATED



37%
DISCUSSED DEATH
GROWING UP

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

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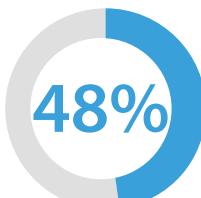
Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues, the Kaiser Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Menlo Park, California.

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

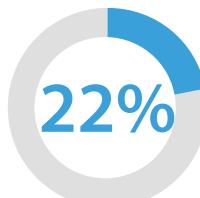
Among family members of older adults with serious illness...

60%

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



know where it is



have referred to it

94%

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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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



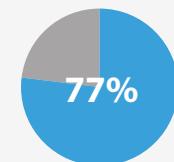
Hispanic adults are more likely than White or Black adults to be worried about facing challenges if they become seriously ill when they're older.

% who say they are worried they may...

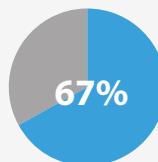
have trouble affording the medical care that they need

have trouble affording the support services that they may need

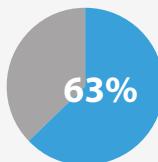
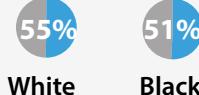
leave debts to their family when they die



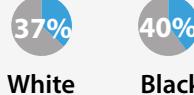
Hispanic
VS.



Hispanic
VS.



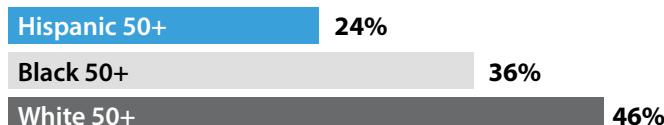
Hispanic
VS.



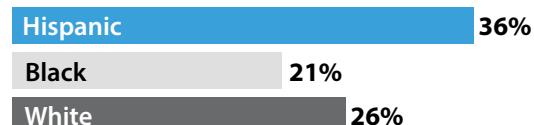
Hispanics are less likely to say they've take steps to plan for their own needs as they age.

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

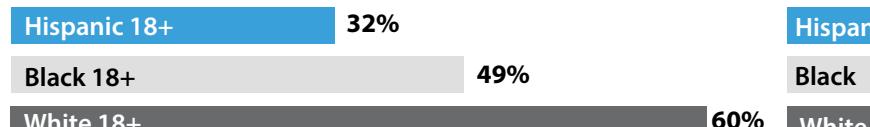
Set aside money that could be used for ongoing living expenses



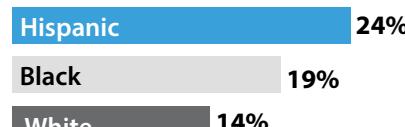
It is difficult to get needed help with everyday activities



Currently saving for retirement, among those not already retired



Cost recently prevented them from getting the help they need



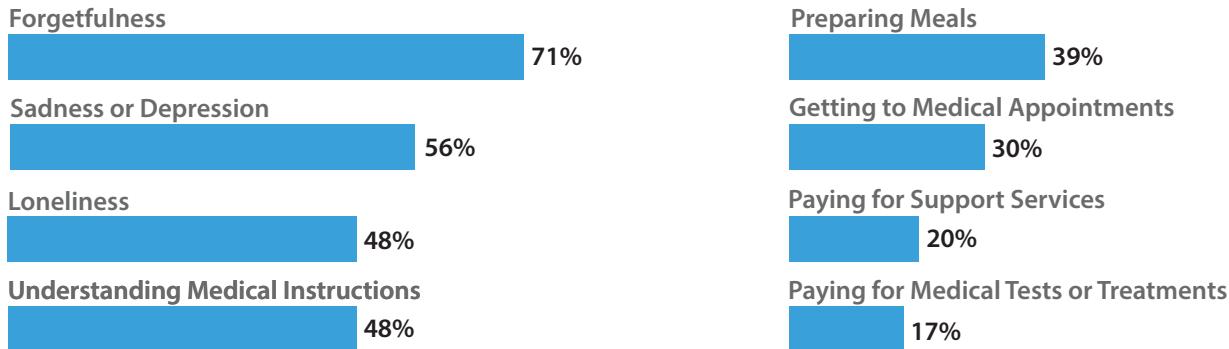
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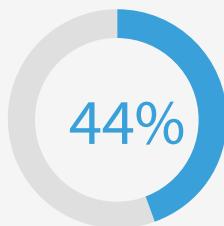
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Older Adults with Serious Illness Report a Variety of Challenges

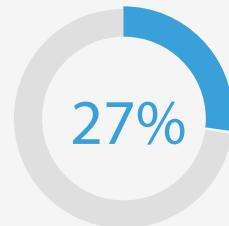
Older adults with serious illness face a significant set of challenges, including...



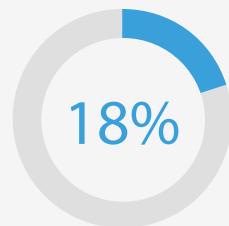
Some older adults with serious illness and their family members say they...



NEED HELP MORE OFTEN

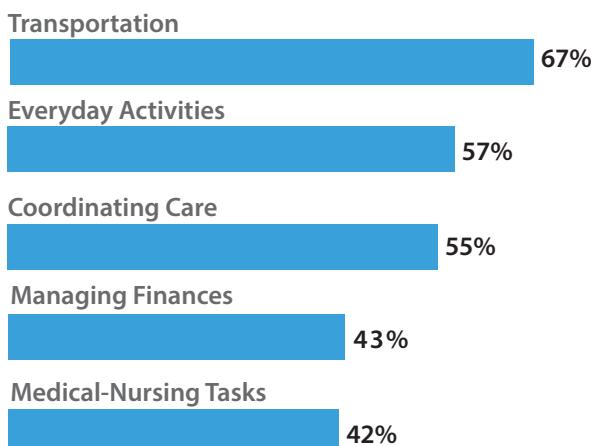


HAVE HAD TROUBLE
GETTING NEEDED HELP



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...



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

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