

Data Brief 357. Problems Paying Medical Bills, 2018

Data table for Figure 1. Percentage of persons who were in families having problems paying medical bills in the past 12 months, by year: United States, 2011–2018

Year	Percent (95% confidence interval)	Standard error
2011	19.7 (19.1–20.3)	0.31
2012	18.8 (18.3–19.4)	0.28
2013	17.9 (17.4–18.5)	0.30
2014	16.5 (16.0–17.1)	0.29
2015	15.2 (14.6–15.7)	0.28
2016	14.9 (14.3–15.4)	0.28
2017	14.6 (14.0–15.2)	0.29
2018	14.2 (13.7–14.8)	0.29

NOTES: "Problems paying medical bills" is based on a positive response to the question, "In the past 12 months, did you or anyone in the family have problems paying or were unable to pay any medical bills? Include bills for doctors, dentists, hospitals, therapists, medication, equipment, nursing home, or home care." Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2011–2018.

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Data table for Figure 2. Percentage of persons who were in families having problems paying medical bills in the past 12 months, by sex, age group, and race and ethnicity: United States, 2018

Selected demographics	Percent (95% confidence interval)	Standard error
Total	14.2 (13.7–14.8)	0.29
Sex		
Male	13.8 (13.2–14.4)	0.30
Female	14.7 (14.1–15.3)	0.31
Age group (years)		
0–17	16.2 (15.3–17.2)	0.49
18–64	15.1 (14.5–15.7)	0.31
65–74	9.1 (8.4–10.0)	0.40
75 and over	6.7 (5.9–7.6)	0.43
Race and ethnicity		
Hispanic	15.6 (14.2–17.0)	0.71
Non-Hispanic white	13.0 (12.3–13.7)	0.34
Non-Hispanic black	20.6 (18.8–22.6)	0.96
Non-Hispanic Asian	7.1 (5.5–9.0)	0.84

NOTES: "Problems paying medical bills" is based on a positive response to the question, "In the past 12 months, did you or anyone in the family have problems paying or were unable to pay any medical bills? Include bills for doctors, dentists, hospitals, therapists, medication, equipment, nursing home, or home care." Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2018.

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Data table for Figure 3. Percentage of persons under age 65 who were in families having problems paying medical bills in the past 12 months, by age group and health insurance status: United States, 2018

Age group (years) and health insurance status	Percent (95% confidence interval)	Standard error
Under 65		
Private	11.9 (11.3–12.5)	0.32
Medicaid	20.1 (18.8–21.5)	0.69
Uninsured	27.7 (25.8–29.7)	0.98
0–17		
Private	12.0 (11.0–13.2)	0.56
Medicaid	21.4 (19.7–23.3)	0.90
Uninsured	29.8 (24.7–35.3)	2.63
18–64		
Private	11.8 (11.2–12.4)	0.30
Medicaid	18.8 (17.3–20.3)	0.76
Uninsured	27.4 (25.5–29.3)	0.95

NOTES: "Problems paying medical bills" is based on a positive response to the question, "In the past 12 months, did you or anyone in the family have problems paying or were unable to pay any medical bills? Include bills for doctors, dentists, hospitals, therapists, medication, equipment, nursing home, or home care." Persons with more than one type of health insurance were assigned to the first appropriate category in the following hierarchy: private, Medicaid, other coverage, and uninsured. Persons with other coverage are not shown. Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2018.

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Data table for Figure 4. Percentage of adults aged 65 and over who were in families having problems paying medical bills in the past 12 months, by age group and health insurance status: United States, 2018

Age group and health insurance status	Percent (95% confidence interval)	Standard error
65 and over		
Private	5.6 (4.8–6.4)	0.40
Medicare and Medicaid	12.3 (9.7–15.3)	1.39
Medicare Advantage	8.3 (7.1–9.6)	0.62
Medicare only	12.4 (10.7–14.3)	0.89
65–74		
Private	6.4 (5.5–7.5)	0.51
Medicare and Medicaid	14.3 (11.1–18.1)	1.72
Medicare Advantage	9.1 (7.5–11.0)	0.87
Medicare only	13.6 (11.4–15.9)	1.12
75 and over		
Private	4.2 (3.2–5.5)	0.57
Medicare and Medicaid	9.6 (6.2–13.9)	1.87
Medicare Advantage	7.2 (5.6–9.0)	0.84
Medicare only	10.6 (8.2–13.5)	1.30

NOTES: "Problems paying medical bills" is based on a positive response to the question, "In the past 12 months, did you or anyone in the family have problems paying or were unable to pay any medical bills? Include bills for doctors, dentists, hospitals, therapists, medication, equipment, nursing home, or home care." Adults with more than one type of health insurance were assigned to the first appropriate category in the following hierarchy: private, Medicare and Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, and Medicare only (no Advantage). Adults with other coverage and those who are uninsured are not shown. Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2018.