



benefitNEWS

New Study Suggests 41% of all healthcare spending attributed to 12% of Americans

According to a new *RAND Health* report prepared for the *Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease U.S.*, adults with five or more chronic conditions spend 14 times more on health services on average than those with no chronic conditions. Researchers examined the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (“MEPS”) from Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. MEPS is a nationally representative sample of the U.S. adult population.

The study revealed 60% of U.S. adults had at least one chronic condition in 2014. A startling 42% of U.S. adults had more than one chronic condition, according to the study. Not surprisingly, the study also showed people with more chronic conditions require and consume more healthcare services. For example, the study revealed people with five or more chronic conditions average 20 physician visits per year, while those with three or four chronic conditions average 12 physician visits annually. The study also revealed:

- U.S. adults with one or two chronic conditions make up 31% of the population and 23% of total healthcare spending.
- Those with five or more chronic conditions make up 12% of the population but account for 41% of total healthcare spending.
- Spending on healthcare services rises with the number of chronic conditions a person has.

To access the full report from RAND Health, [click here](#).

The report highlights the need for employers and plan sponsors to intensify their efforts to support their plan members with chronic conditions and large claims. If this population can be more effectively supported and managed through clinical advocacy and navigation, then employers and plan sponsors will have a legitimate opportunity to move the needle as it relates to cost and quality. Conner Strong & Buckelew has a robust platform of such services available through vetted partner firms. For more information, contact your Conner Strong & Buckelew account contact.

Please contact your Conner Strong & Buckelew account representative toll free at 1-877-861-3220 with any questions.



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