

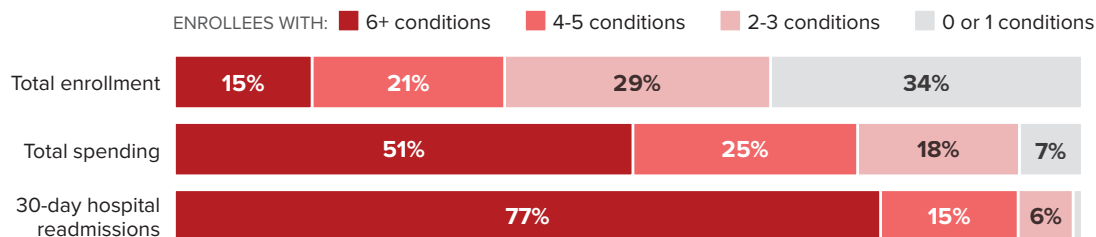
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Medicare Enrollees with Multiple Chronic Conditions Drive Spending

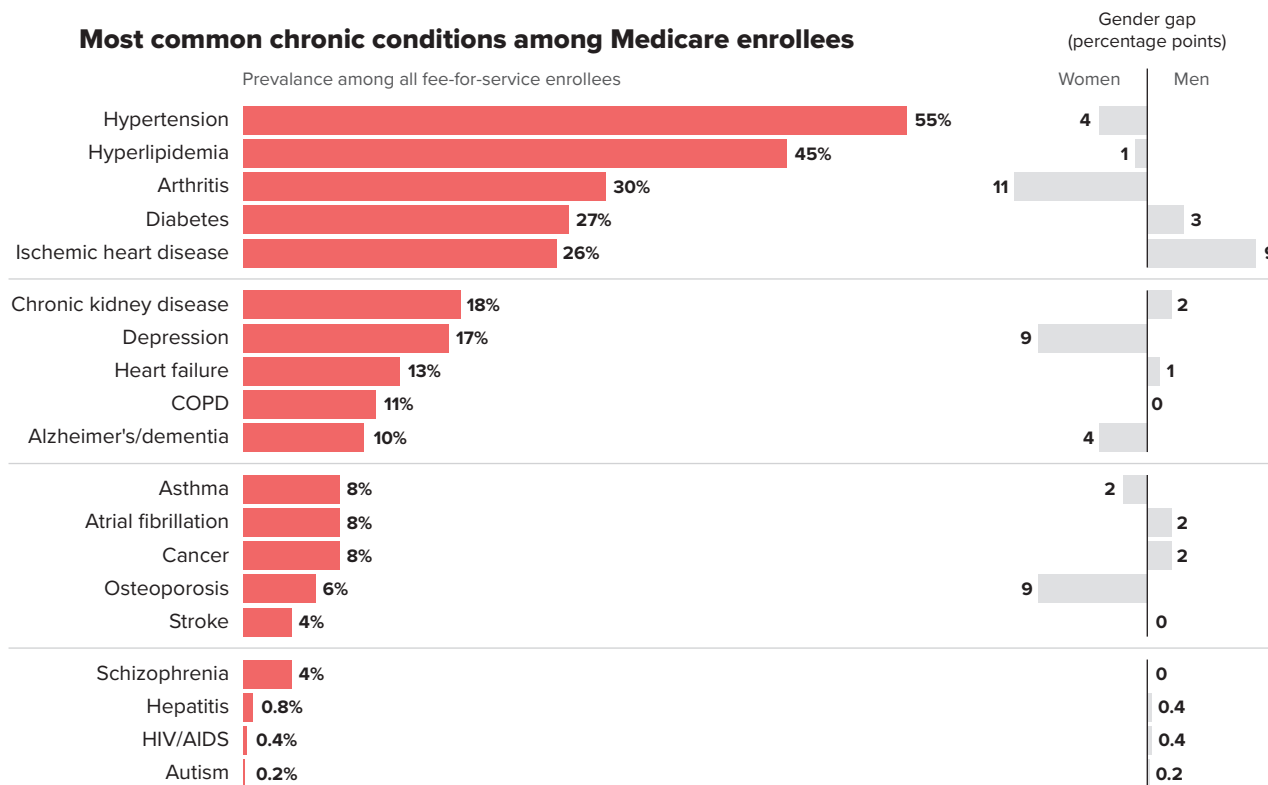
Americans with multiple chronic health conditions face unique challenges in the U.S. health system, particularly with respect to coordination of care. The latest HHS data show that a small fraction of Medicare enrollees with multiple chronic conditions drive a majority of Medicare spending.

These enrollees also drive an even greater percentage of hospital readmissions within 30 days of initial discharge — a metric targeted by policymakers as a symptom of wasteful spending. A provision of the Affordable Care Act penalizes hospitals that score poorly on this metric by cutting their Medicare payments up to 3 percent.

Share of Medicaid activity by enrollees with multiple chronic conditions



Most common chronic conditions among Medicare enrollees



Source: CMS, "Chronic conditions among Medicare beneficiaries"

By Tucker Doherty, POLITICO Pro DataPoint