

CAMPAIGN ON UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

#ACCESS2030

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26/04/17

EPF and Medicines for Europe
Seminar

 @eupatientsforum

“ A STRONG PATIENTS’ VOICE TO
DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE ”

EPF European
Patients
Forum 

EPF & Access



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2017 - Campaign on Universal Health Coverage

“These are our claims: we need to take action”

2016- EPF Report on Access

“This is the situation we face”



“This is what Access means to us”

2015 - EPF Definition of Access: “the 5 As”



“Access is a priority issue for us”



2014 - EPF Working Group on Access

Survey on Access – what did we learn?



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Availability

Affordability

Accessibility

Adequacy

Appropriateness

Survey results: quality of care



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The safety and **quality of healthcare** in the EU is unequal, and key aspects of patient centered healthcare are not implemented




Almost 48% of respondents indicated ‘sometimes’, ‘rarely’ or ‘never’ receiving **quality care according to standards/guidelines or best practices** available for their condition

Survey results: investment in care



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There is a lack of appropriate resources being **efficiently invested** in healthcare



A large share of respondents indicated **insufficient and inadequate investment** as a fundamental issue and in response to significant waiting times, called for appropriate resources to be allocated to hire and retain HCPs.

Respondents also advised to **improve the management of healthcare financing.**



"We have a two tier system that is very unfair. Those who have the resources have access to quality, timely healthcare. Those in public system have access to quality care but it is not timely and it can be haphazard." - A patient from Ireland

Survey results: affordability



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Too many patients in the EU are confronted to **financial hardship** as a result of healthcare costs



41% reported **reducing household spending on essential needs**, such as food or clothing to be able to cover healthcare costs

40% of respondents reported **forgoing or postponing healthcare visits** due to costs at least 1 time in the past 12 months



"I am a relatively mid-class person, having a good private company insurance from my employer, so I am an exception. Definitely there is no access to healthcare for people without a good insurance programme (run by a private insurance company) [...] Also many people cannot afford dental care, it is crazy expensive." - A family carer from Latvia

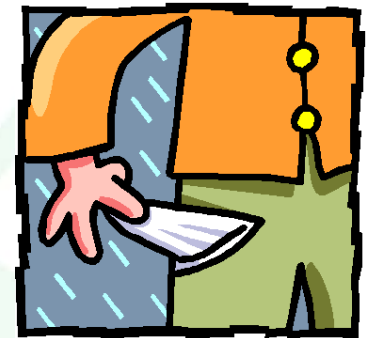
Survey results: affordability



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Too many patients in the EU are confronted to financial hardship as a result of healthcare costs

- Difficulty in affording **specific services** when needed
- Healthcare coverage gaps: **Out-of-pocket payments for unmet needs**



"I am over the eligibility limit to qualify me for a medical card so I have to pay for all my healthcare and dental costs but my salary is insufficient to cover all the costs. On top of this I have to pay for private medical insurance to avoid very lengthy waiting lists in the public healthcare system and pay for private services unavailable in the public healthcare system" - A patient from Ireland

Survey results: Financial hardship as a result of healthcare cost



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About **60%** of respondents have **faced financial difficulties at least 'sometimes'** as a result of spending on healthcare.

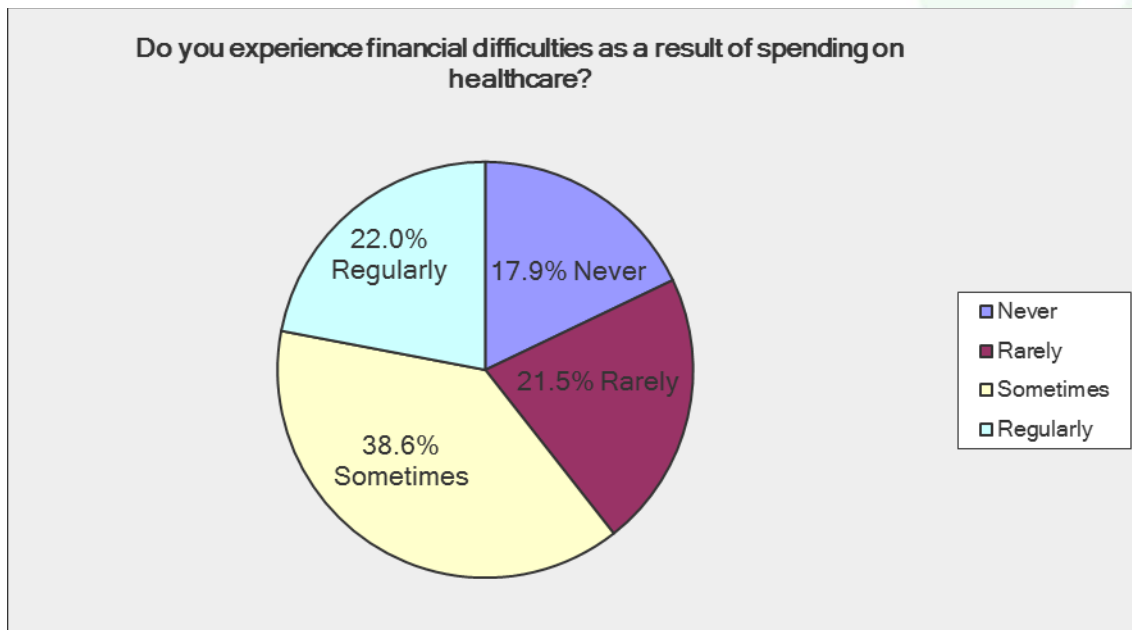


Figure: Financial difficulties (4 pre-defined answers)

Differences by Income Group

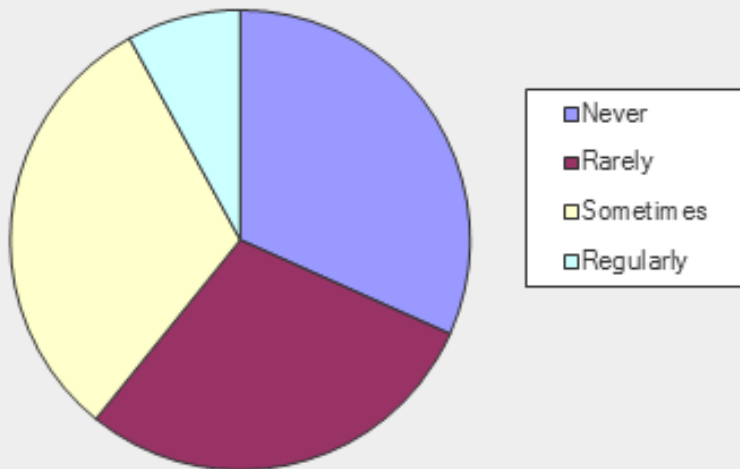


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The survey indicates divergent experiences as to access to healthcare across the European Union

Easy Income Group

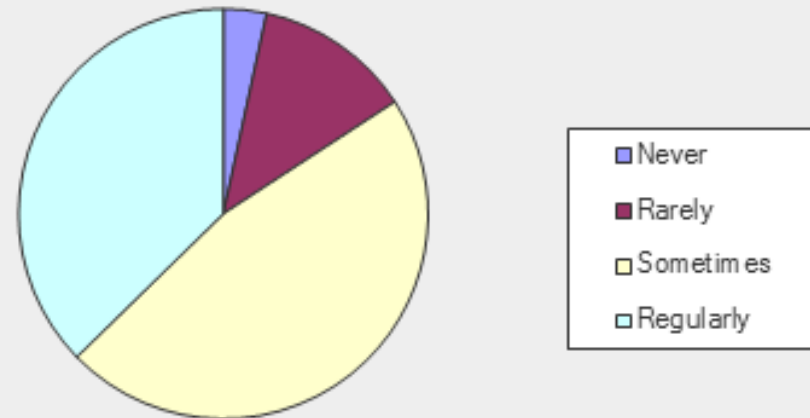
Do you experience financial difficulties as a result of spending on healthcare?



Experience of financial difficulties of respondents who can make ends meet fairly easily, easily or very easily

Difficulty Income Group

Do you experience financial difficulties as a result of spending on healthcare?



Experience of financial difficulties of respondents who can make ends meet with some difficulty, with difficulty or with great difficulty

Patients with multiple conditions

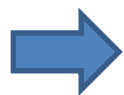


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Patients with multi-morbidities and patients with lower income are more vulnerable to the risk of meeting barriers in accessing healthcare

29.31% of patients with several chronic conditions reported **regularly facing financial difficulty** due to spending on healthcare vs 18.91% of patients with 1 condition

50% of patients with several conditions declared having to **reduce spending on essential needs** to be able to cover healthcare costs vs 36.23% of patients with one condition



Need for a holistic approach to access to health care and social services



Conclusion - Health Inequalities



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The survey indicates divergent experiences as to access to healthcare across the European Union

- Differences by Income group
- Differences of patients with one chronic condition vs multiple chronic conditions
- Comparison of patients from Member States who joined the EU before and after 2004



Campaign's Strategic Objective



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This campaign will contribute to making **universal access a reality for EU patients by 2030**, through defining and promoting concrete actions, in concert with the health community, to which decision makers need to commit, to ensure we achieve the **Health SDG by 2030**



5 Areas for Action



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Providing access to
quality of care



Committing to **sustainable investment** in health



Encouraging **affordability** of healthcare products and services



Implementing access to
an **holistic** range of health and social services



Ending **discrimination** and stigma patients are facing in healthcare





Objectives

- **Raising awareness** about the **barriers** patients face in accessing healthcare
- Building **on current political momentum**, including the UN sustainable development goal for health
- Fostering **more EU cooperation** on access to healthcare
- Overturning **the current trends** and **change the focus** of politicians from short sighted cuts and decisions on investment to a real commitment to a long term vision where **equity of access is a reality**

Where can you help?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Follow the campaign on Social Media!

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eu-patient.eu/blog

More information
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