

Short Stint at the Hospital; Long Time Out of a Home

More than 1 in 4 people are paying off medical debt

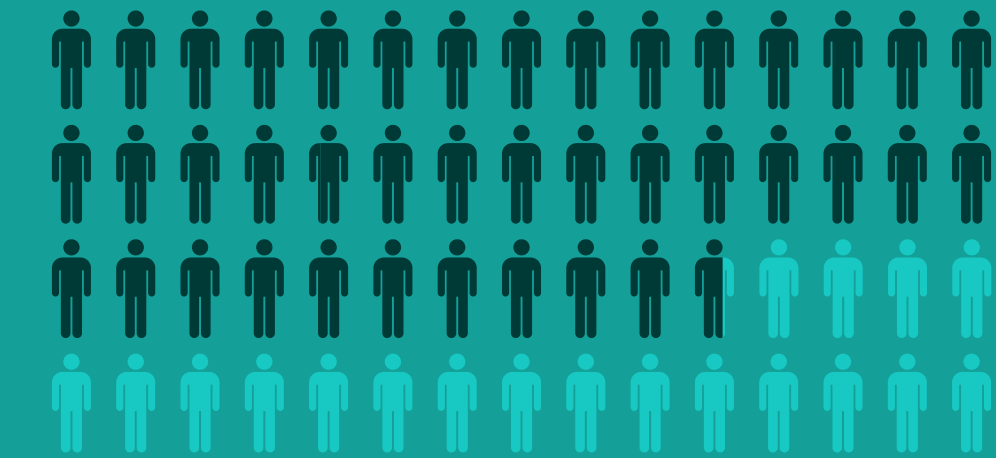


60%+ bankruptcies are linked to medical causes



So, is medical debt also associated with length of homelessness?

Surveyed 60 people experiencing homelessness in Seattle encampments/shelters



68% of respondents had current medical debt (N = 60)



...is associated with a longer most recent episode of homelessness
Extends homelessness by 2+ years

...affects people of color disproportionately
They had 1 year greater homelessness than white people



...affects even those with health insurance
>50% respondents had insurance when they incurred the most debt



...can create financial chaos
Even when it is small (<\$300)



Medical debt can have severe consequences on housing status; Would universal healthcare solve this problem?