

Economic burden of binge-eating disorder quantified

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(HealthDay)—Individuals with binge-eating disorder (BED) have

significantly greater economic burden compared to those without BED, according to a study published online Nov. 16 in the *International Journal of Eating Disorders*.

You-Li Ling, Ph.D., from the University of Texas at Austin, and colleagues quantified the economic burden of BED among respondents of the U.S. National Health and Wellness Survey 2013 who were invited to participate in a follow-up internet survey. A total of 1,720 individuals were included in the analysis: 344 with BED and 1,376 without BED.

The researchers found that the levels of activity impairment were higher for BED respondents than non-BED respondents (41.29 versus 23.18 percent; P emergency room visits (0.26 versus 0.15; $P = 0.016$), and physician visits (6.09 versus 4.56; $P = 0.002$). Compared with matched non-BED respondents, BED respondents reported higher total direct costs (\$20,194 versus \$14,465; $P = 0.005$). Indirect costs were higher among employed BED respondents than those without BED (\$19,327 versus \$9,032; P

"Individuals with BED reported significantly greater [economic burden](#) with respect to work productivity loss, level of health care resource utilization, and costs compared to non-BED [respondents](#)," the authors write.

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