

## 'Nontrivial' number of seniors lack a personal physician

March 28 2018

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(HealthDay)—Medicare beneficiaries without a personal physician

report substantially worse patient experiences and less routine care, according to a study published online Feb. 16 in *Medical Care*.

Grant R. Martsolf, Ph.D., from the University of Pittsburgh, and colleagues assessed the care [experiences](#) of older adults without a personal [physician](#) using data from 272,463 beneficiaries (aged  $\geq 65$  years) participating in the 2012 Medicare Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems survey.

The researchers found that 5 percent of respondents reported no personal physician. Men, racial/ethnic minorities (e.g., 16 percent of American Indian/Alaska Natives), and the younger and less educated respondents more commonly lacked a personal physician. Those without a personal physician reported substantially poorer scores on four measures of patient experience (P health care provider in the last six months).

"Even with the access provided by Medicare, a small but nontrivial proportion of seniors report having no personal physician," the authors write. "Efforts should be made to encourage and help seniors without personal physicians to select one."

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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Citation: 'Nontrivial' number of seniors lack a personal physician (2018, March 28) retrieved 3 September 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-03-nontrivial-seniors-lack-personal-physician.html>

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