

'Nontrivial' number of seniors lack a personal physician

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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 ≥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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