



# **The Problem With a One-Size-Fits-All Approach to Health Care Claims: Policy Implications and Solutions**

January 2020

# Speakers



Paul Fronstin, Ph.D.,  
Director, Health  
Research and Education  
Program, EBRI



Lee Murphy, Ph.D.,  
Founder and CEO,  
Inespera Health



**Moderated by:** Tami  
Simon, Senior Vice  
President, Segal

UNIFIED MEETING 5 Paul Fronstin

MAIN ROOM (5) SHARE [EBRI - Marcene ...]

Q & A

EBRI

**RIGHT CLICK on "Ask Questions" then Click on Chat**

**Chat window will open in the bottom left corner**

PARTICIPANTS (5)

- Paul Fronstin (Me)
- EBRI - Marcene Pugh MODERATOR, SHARING
- Ask Questions

Chat

Meeting information



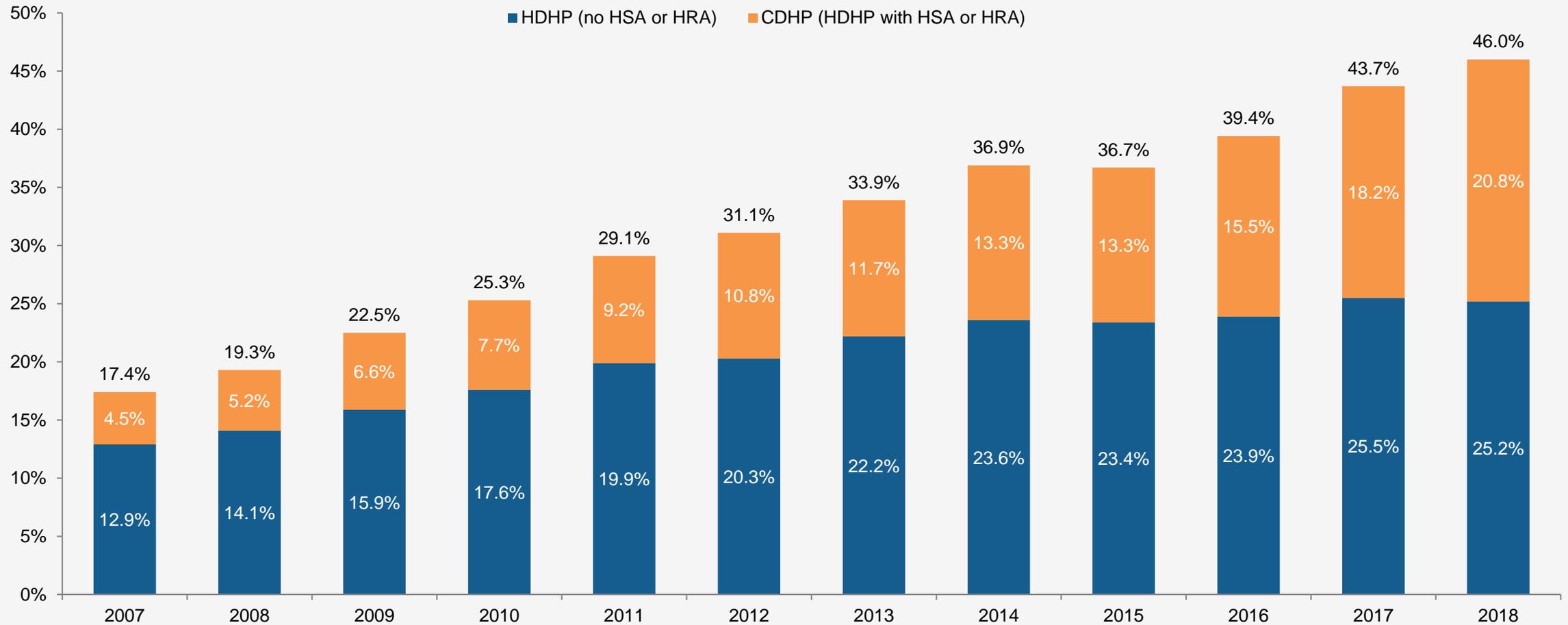
# **Persistency in High-Cost Claims Among Individuals with Employment-Based Health Benefits**

Paul Fronstin, Ph.D.

Employee Benefit Research Institute

January 2020

# Percentage of Persons With Private Health Insurance Under Age 65 Enrolled in HDHP or CDHP, 2007–2018



## Distribution of Health Spending, Among Individuals with Employment-Based Health Coverage, Continuous Enrollment in 2017

Percentage of Enrollees	Percentage of Spending	Median Spending Per Person	Mean Spending Per Person	Minimum Spending Per Person	Percent Reaching OOP Maximum
1%	28%	\$120,500	\$168,500	\$ 80,000	70-80%
5%	56%	\$41,500	\$65,315	\$ 23,000	60-70%
10%	70%	\$23,500	\$41,300	\$ 12,000	50-60%
20%	84%	\$12,700	\$24,900	\$ 5,400	30-40%

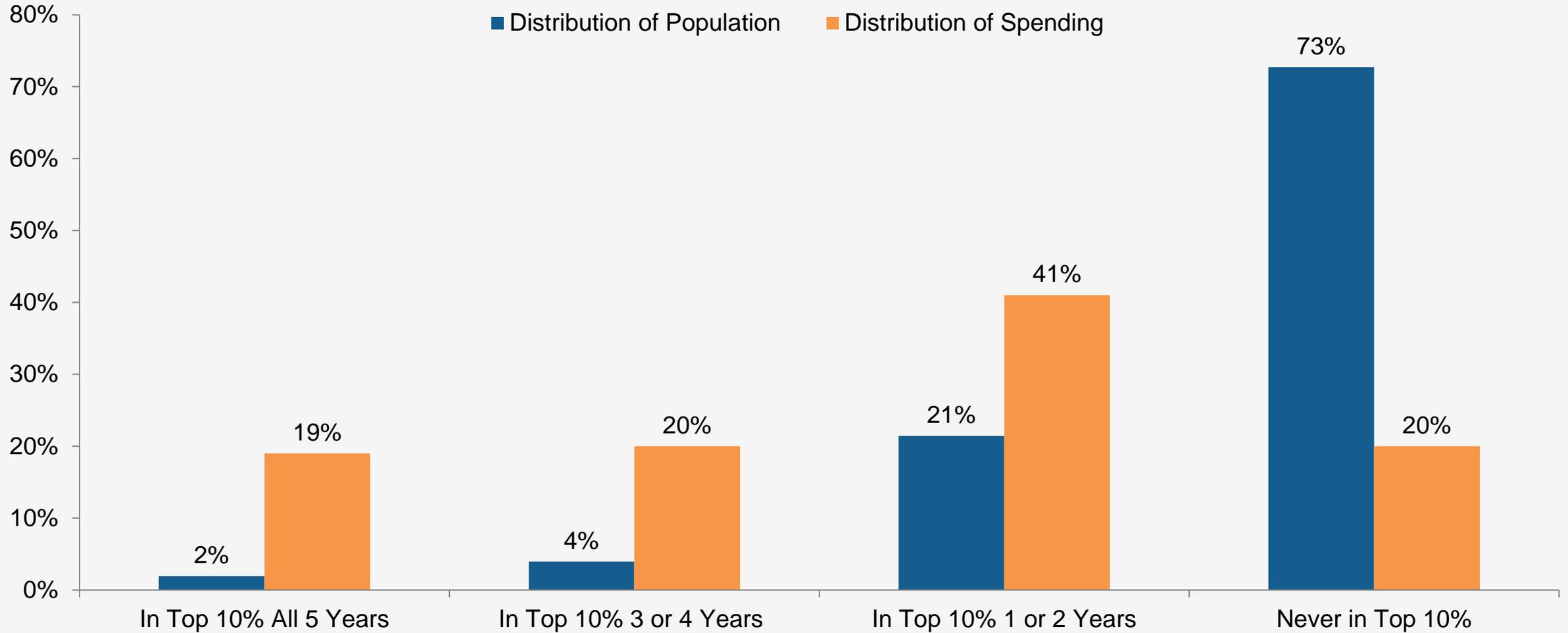
# Questions that could be addressed in a study

- How do define high-cost claimant?  
20/80, 10/50
- Who are the people with persistent high-cost claims?
- What percent of spending do they represent?
- What percent of claimants and spending is temporarily high-cost?
- How do we define persistent? Recent paper on Medicare looked at 3 years. We can look at 5 years.
- Age, gender, policyholder vs. dependent
- Type of health plan
- What are the high-cost health conditions (start with 17 conditions in Charlson Comorbidity Index)?
- How do characteristics of those who are persistently high-cost differ from those who are temporarily high-cost?
- What role do rare diseases play?
- Where is the spending in high-cost claimants (persistent vs. temporary)?
- What are the options to address high-cost claimants (persistent vs. temporary)?
- Role of out-of-network use?
- What options do not work with high-cost claimants?
- How does plan design fit in?
- Are employers properly focusing their efforts?

# Data

- Truven MarketScan Database
- Medical and pharmacy claims data on 14-16 million people with employment-based health benefits in any given year between 2013-2017
- 5.8 million individuals with employment-based health benefits trackable over 2013-2017
  
- Limitations of using continuously enrolled sample
  - Missing many \$1 million babies
  - Missing other potentially high cost claimants who drop from sample because they become disabled, eligible for Medicare or pass away

# Length of Time in Top 10 Percent of Spending During 2013-2017 and Distribution of Total Spending in 2017; 27% of Population in Top 10% of Claims at Least Once, Accounted for 73% of Spending



# Characteristics in 2017, Within Patterns of High Cost Claims During 2013-2017 -- High Claimants are Disproportionately Older

	Patterns of High Cost Categories			
	Never in Top 10%	In Top 10% 1 or 2 Years	In Top 10% 3 or 4 Years	In Top 10% All 5 Years
<b>Variables</b>	<b>N=112,909</b>	<b>N=230,864</b>	<b>N=1,251,397</b>	<b>N=4,247,808</b>
Age: 0-12	15%	4%	2%	3%
Age: 13-17	10%	4%	3%	2%
Age: 18-24	15%	9%	6%	4%
Age: 25-34	6%	8%	5%	4%
Age: 35-49	24%	29%	25%	24%
<b>Age: 50-64</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>63%</b>
Male	52%	41%	40%	44%
Female	48%	59%	60%	56%

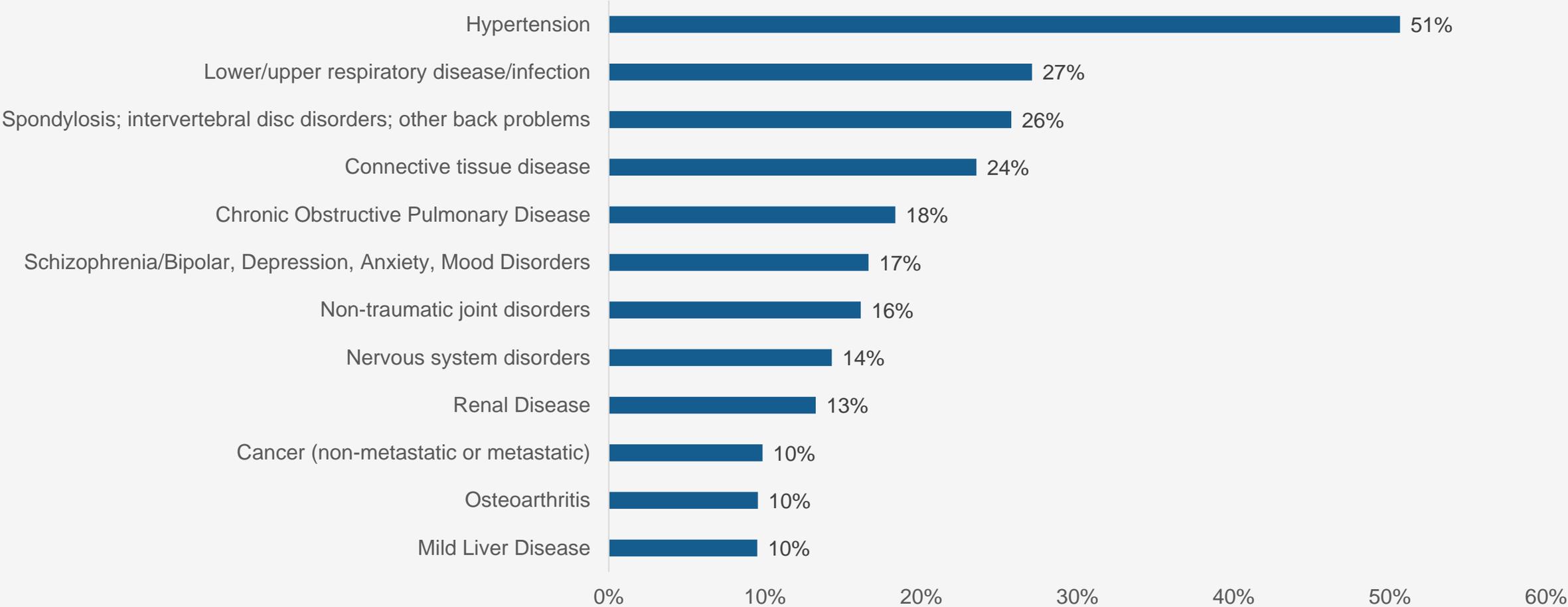
# Characteristics in 2017, Within Patterns of High Cost Claims During 2013-2017 -- High Claimants are Disproportionately the Covered Spouse

	Patterns of High Cost Categories			
	Never in Top 10%	In Top 10% 1 or 2 Years	In Top 10% 3 or 4 Years	In Top 10% All 5 Years
Policyholder	43%	57%	59%	57%
<b>Covered Spouse</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>32%</b>
Covered Children/Other Dependents, n	41%	17%	12%	10%
HMO/EPO	13%	13%	12%	12%
PPO/POS	56%	61%	66%	66%
HRA	19%	17%	15%	15%
HSA-Eligible	11%	9%	7%	7%

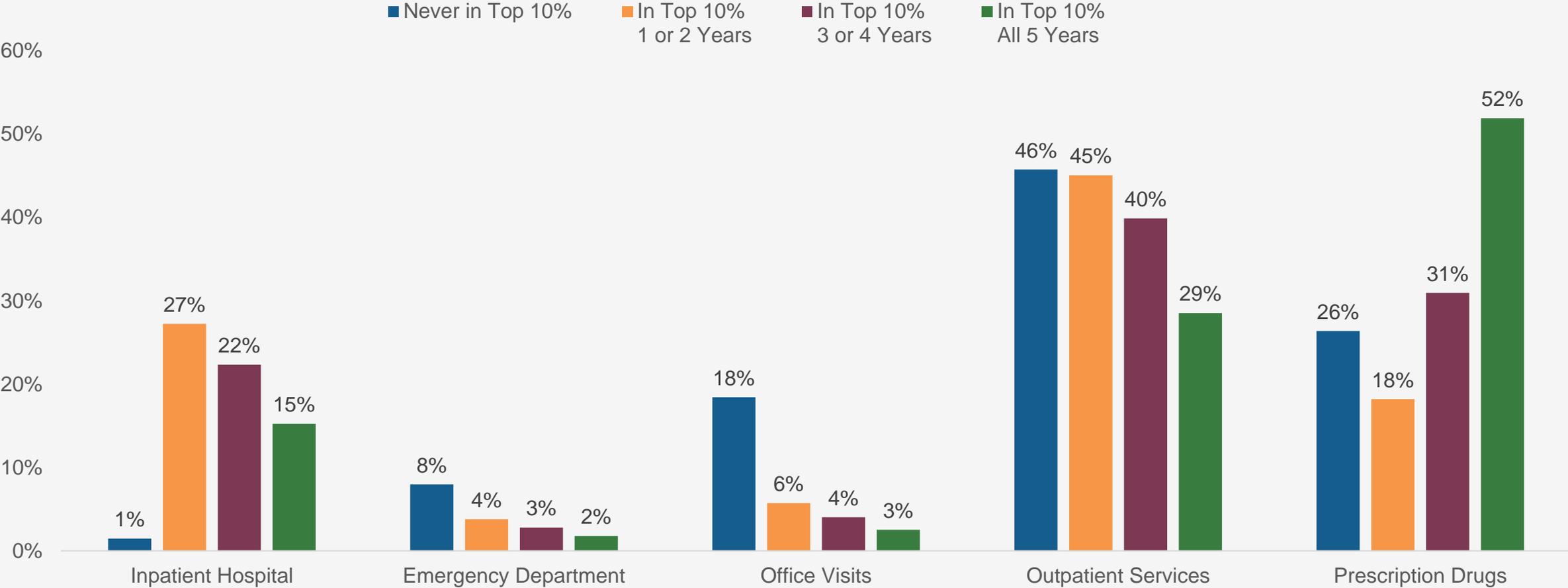
# Health Conditions in 2017, Within Patterns of High Cost Claims During 2013-2017 - High Claimants Have A Lot of Health Conditions

	Patterns of High Cost Categories			
	Never in Top 10%	In Top 10% 1 or 2 Years	In Top 10% 3 or 4 Years	In Top 10% All 5 Years
Hypertension	9%	21%	32%	35%
Dyslipidemia	11%	21%	31%	34%
Diabetes (With or Without Complications)	4%	11%	26%	33%
Spondylosis; intervertebral disc disorders; other back problems	5%	12%	23%	26%
Lower/upper respiratory disease/infection	9%	15%	22%	26%
Connective tissue disease	3%	10%	19%	22%
Schizophrenia/Bipolar, Depression, Anxiety, Mood Disorders	5%	10%	18%	20%
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	5%	9%	15%	18%
Non-traumatic joint disorders	3%	9%	14%	15%
Nervous system disorders	1%	4%	10%	14%
Rheumatoid Disease	0.3%	1%	4%	10%
Cancer (non-metastatic or metastatic)	1%	6%	12%	10%

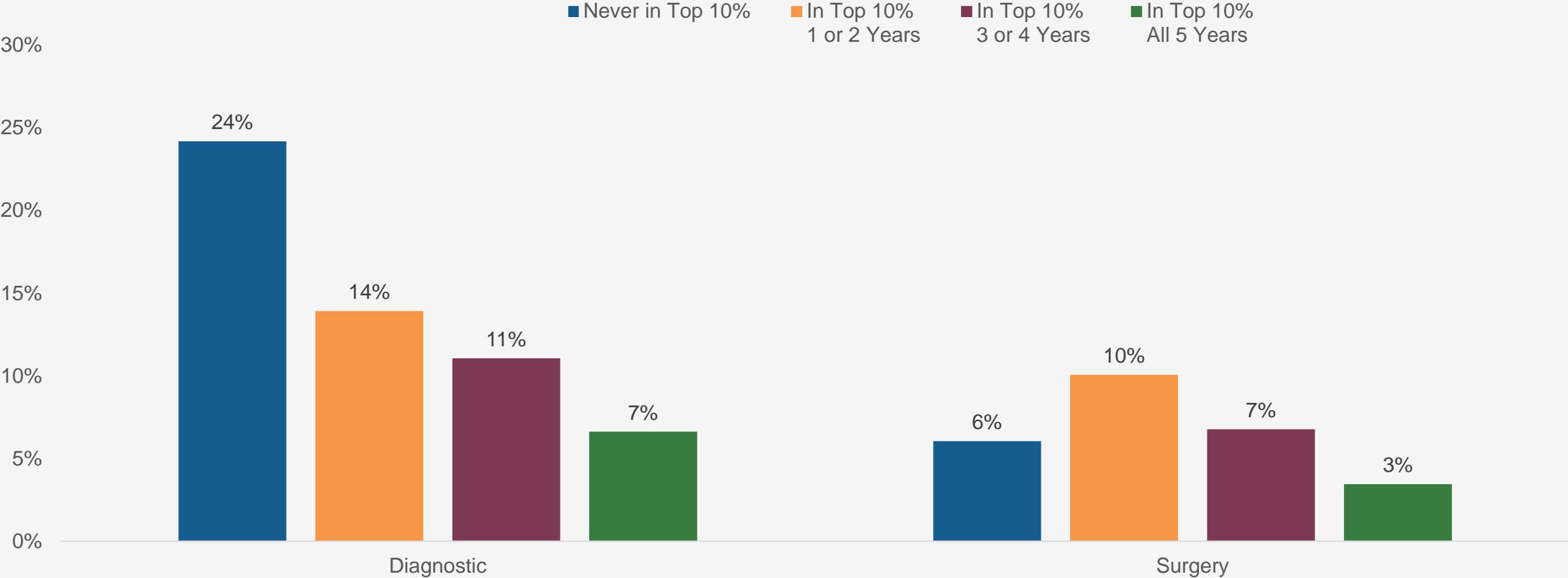
# Comorbidities Among Diabetics in Top 10% of Health Spending, 2013-2017



# Health Spending in 2017, Within Patterns of High Cost Claims During 2013-2017



# Health Spending on Diagnostics and Outpatient Surgery in 2017, Within Patterns of High Cost Claims During 2013-2017



# Implications of Findings

- The “average” health care user (e.g. Cadillac tax)
- Medicare buy-in for individuals ages 50+ or 55+
- Price transparency
- Cost sharing

## Next Steps

- Update study with 2018 data
- Seeking data from individual employers

# EBRI Webinar:

# Persistency in High-Cost Health Care Claims

The Inspera Health Program



**inspera**  
health



# WHO IS INSPERA HEALTH?

- Health improvement company exclusively targeting high cost claimants
- Laser-focused on multiple chronic conditions (MCCs) since 1996
- Part of a comprehensive large claim cost and liability reduction strategy
- Utilize validated metrics to measure investment and health outcomes



# Why We Were Invited

## 1. Large Claim Impact – 3-year aggregate look – active members only

- a) Overall, by age, by employment tenure, by membership categories

## 2. Categorize Chronic Conditions –to 5 diagnosis levels as lifestyle diagnosis often not coded primary

- a) Chronic Condition Indicator (CCI) from HCUP – publicly available <https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/chronic/chronic.jsp>
- b) Adapted CCI list to remove “Traumas & Tragedies” (primarily cancer)
- c) Add biometric data if available (BMI/Weight risk typically not coded in claims)
- d) Calculate a per chronic condition 3-year cost/member

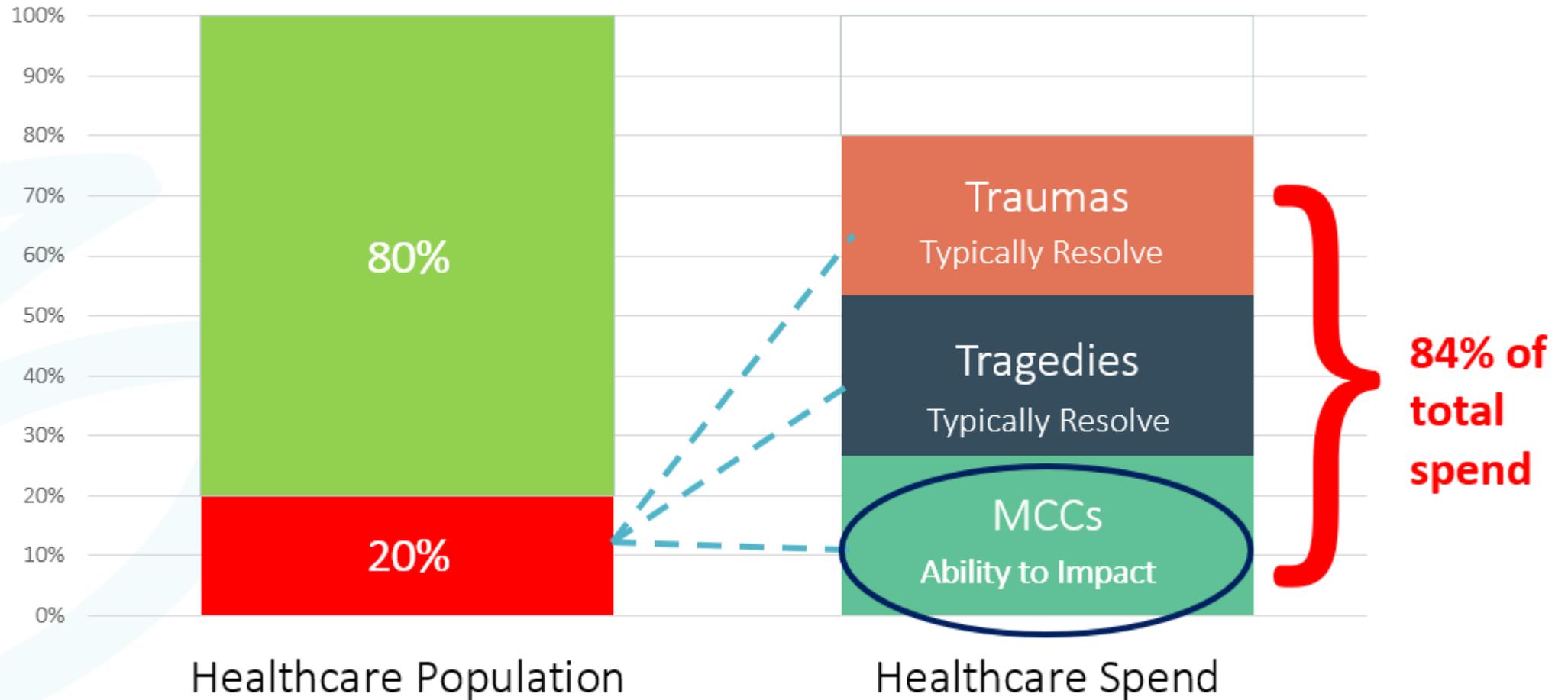
## 3. Look at members with 3 or more conditions

- a) Overall, by age categories, by employment tenure, by membership category
- b) How many with 3+ conditions add additional conditions each year?
- c) What is engagement in present health optimization initiatives & with what results?

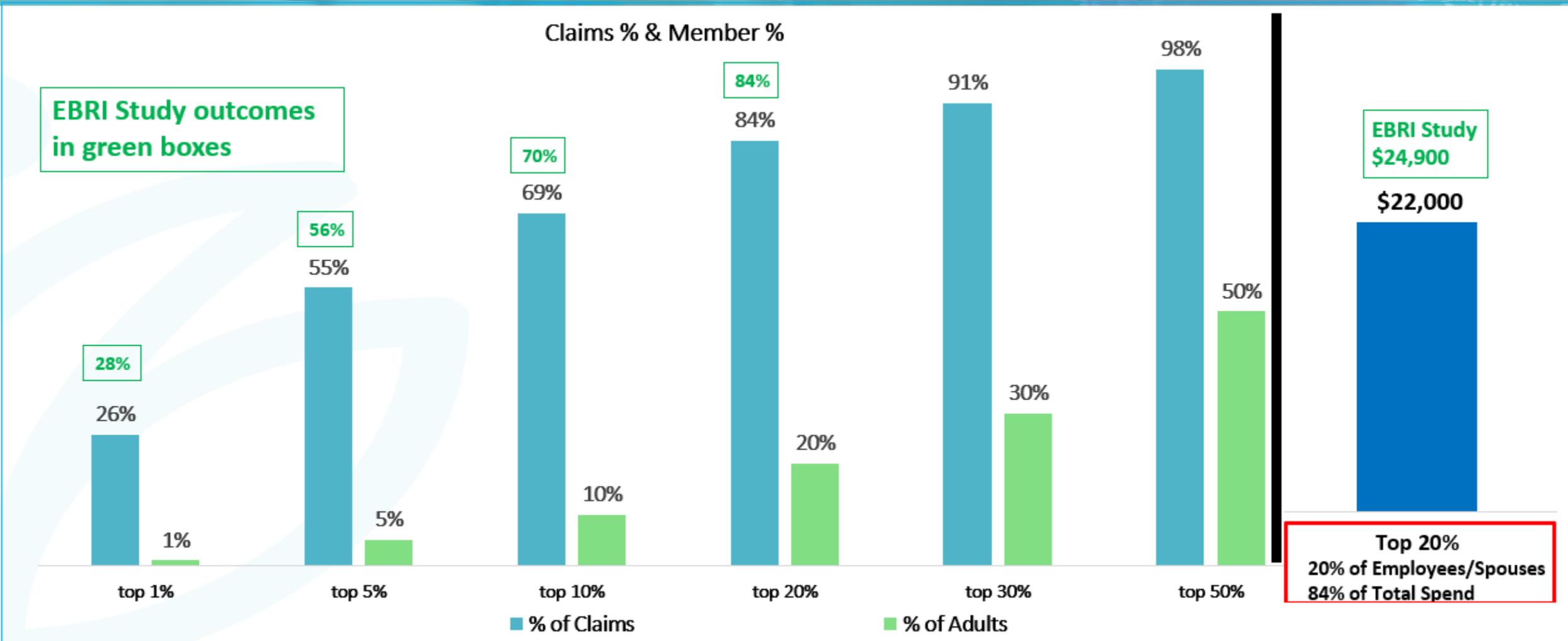
## 4. Develop a program or integrate current resources to target this population

- a) Integrate AHRQ MCC Model: Personalize, Fully Integrate Mental Health, Personalize, Personalize
- b) Measure change sustainability NOT change initiation
- c) Patience, Diligence, Accountability and Compassion must be integrated

# SAMPLE ORGANIZATION HIGH COST CLAIMANTS: 20% OF ADULTS ACCOUNT FOR 84% OF TOTAL SPEND



# 2016-2018 Pareto (Large Claim) Experience



# Finding “Hidden” Value in Claims Data



**3+-year time analysis creates strategic opportunities**

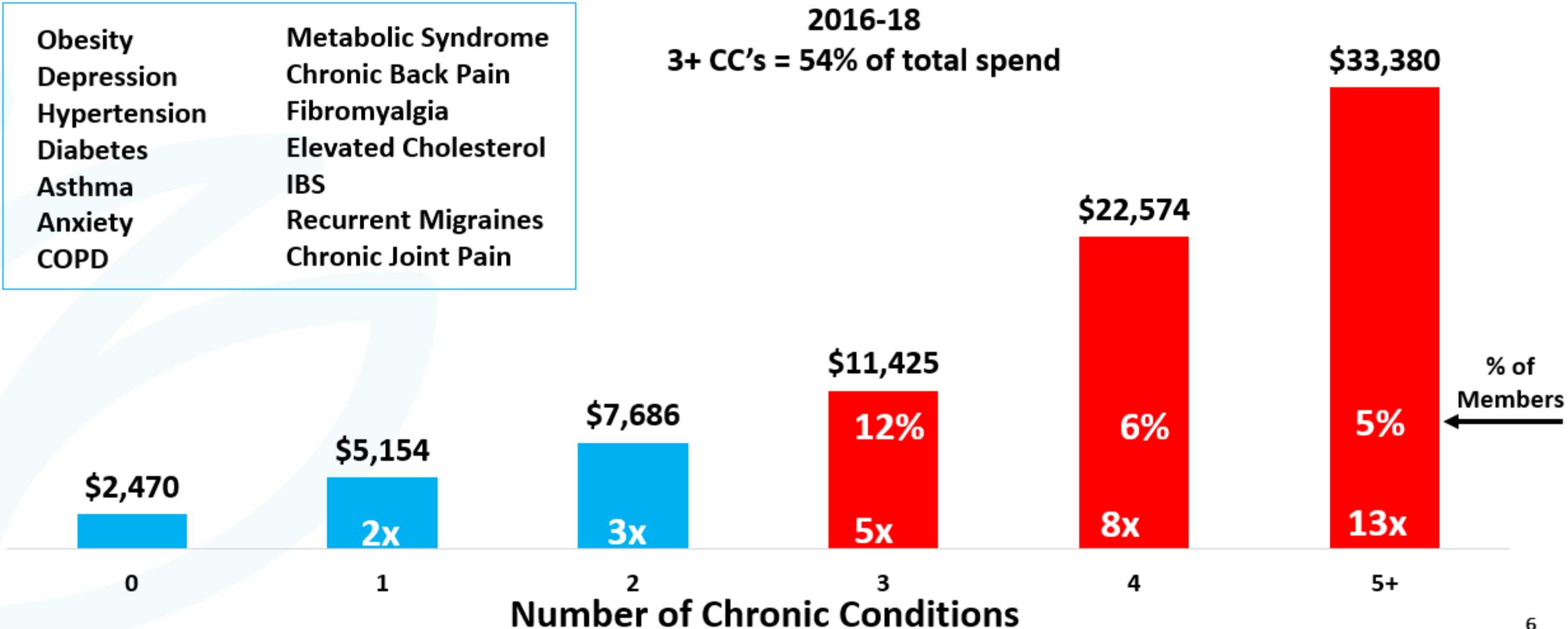


**High Cost/High Risk Claimants are priority focus**



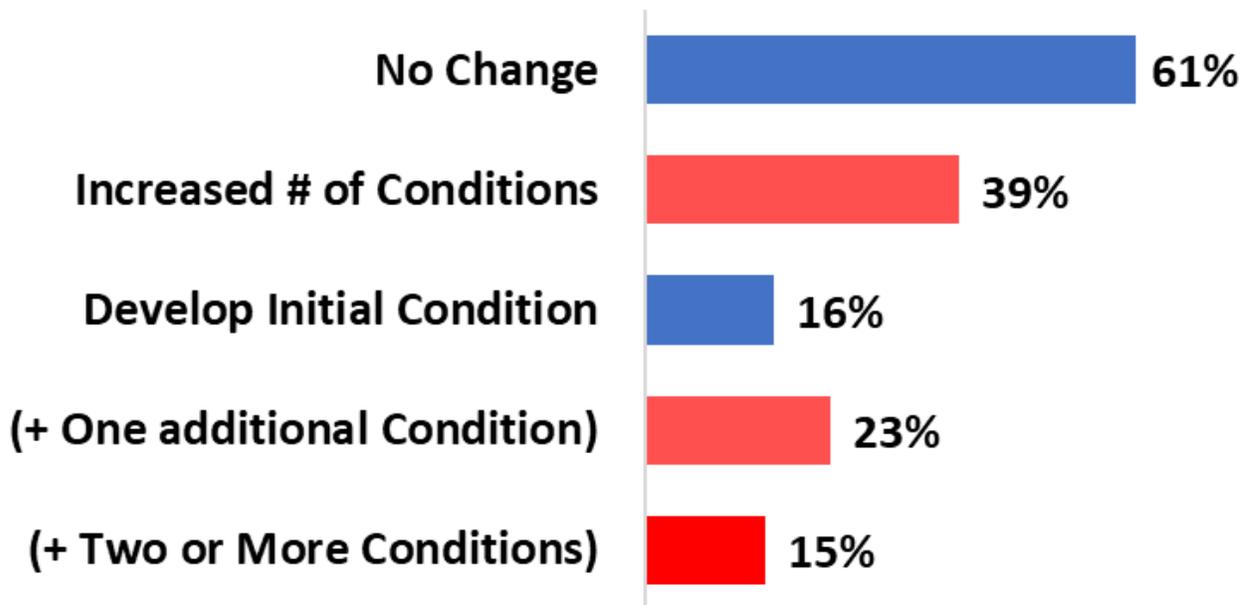
**Identifying areas of impact proactively is important**  
*‘Reacting’ to large claims limits possibilities*

# AVERAGE ANNUAL COST PER MEMBER BY NUMBER OF CHRONIC CONDITIONS 2016-18



# MCC INCREASE OVER 3 YEARS

**% of Members Increasing Number of Conditions Over 3 Years**



Number of Conditions	Annual Average Cost per Member	% cost increase vs. 0 conditions
0	\$2,470	n/a
1	\$5,154	105%
2	\$7,686	202%
3	\$11,425	364%
4	\$22,574	684%
5	\$33,380	1,211%
<b>Average Cost Increase per CC</b>		<b>70%</b>



## MCC POPULATION ATTRIBUTES



Have longer tenure (not career mobile); typically 50% longer than average



75% have behavioral health conditions which amplify other conditions



Not identified as a strategic target focus



The medical system AND employer health improvement solutions are better suited to address single specific conditions, multiple conditions become very complex to address.



The MCC population is one of the only components of the high cost/high risk group that can be ***proactively identified and addressed.***

# TYPICAL INSPERA HEALTH MCC MEMBER

Obese  
Hypertension  
Degenerative Disc Disease  
Defibrillator  
8 Medications  
Denial  
Family Stress  
Sedentary  
Financial Stress



Depression  
Hearing Loss  
Elevated Cholesterol  
Asthma  
Chronic Pain  
Job Stress  
Drug Affordability  
Poor Home Environment  
Child Care Needs



# AHRQ MCC Research Network Findings:

## Effective Management Attributes

Short term, digital  
solutions will NOT  
produce sustainable  
outcomes for those with  
5+ MCCs



1

People with MCC are more than  
just a collection of diseases

2

Patient preferences and values  
need to be assimilated

3

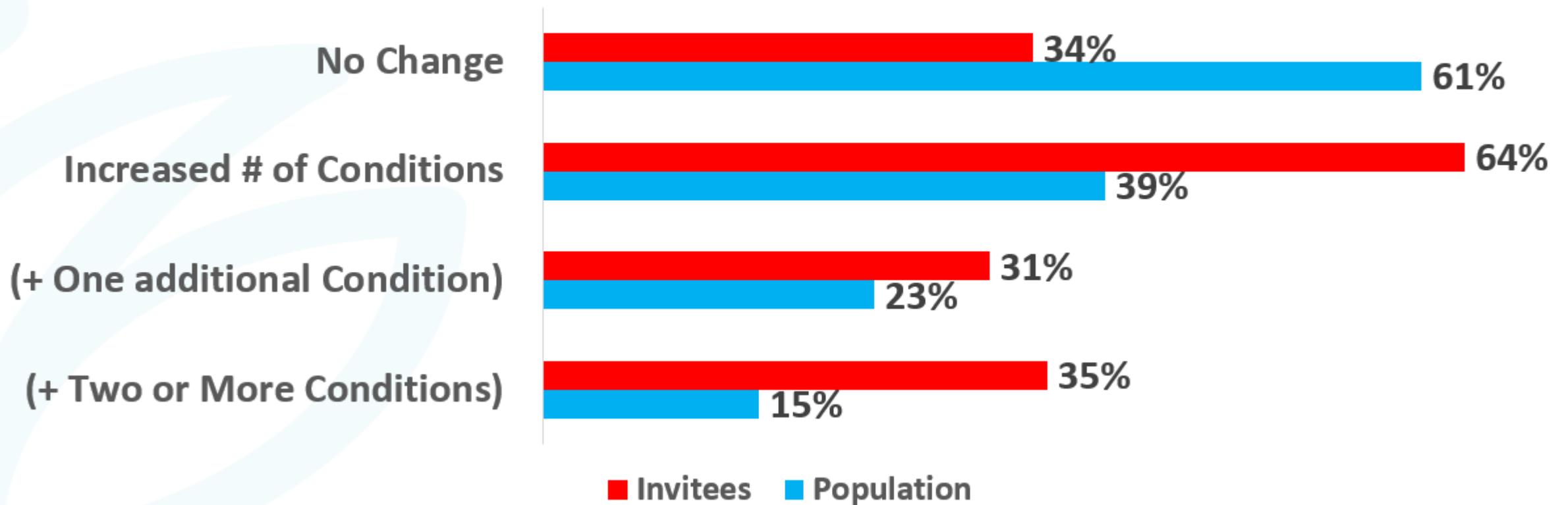
Consideration of the person in  
context of their relationships

4

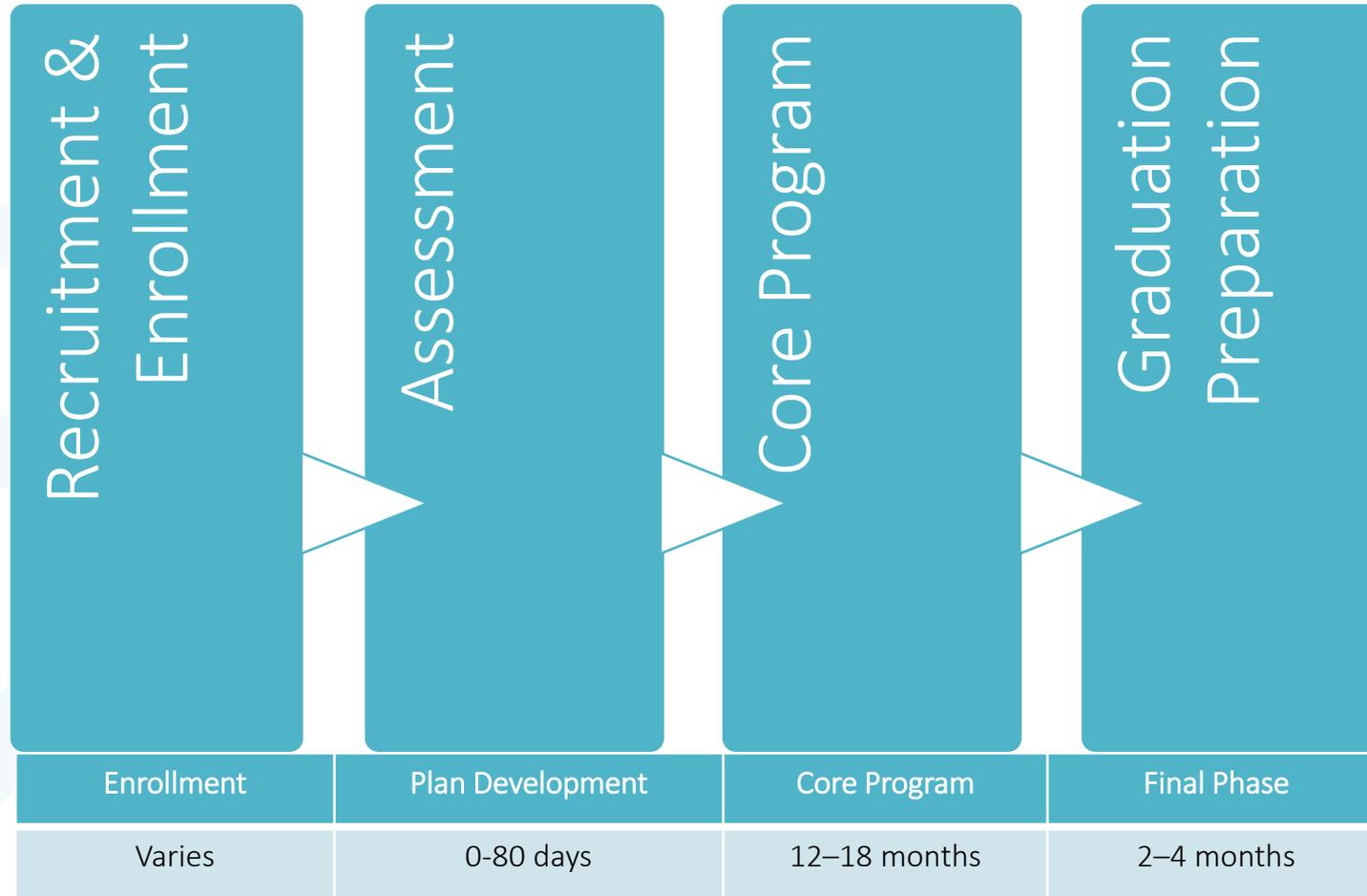
Inclusion of mental health care as  
an integral part of health

# Invitations MCC Increase: 2016 through 2018

## Program Invitees versus Overall Membership



# INSPERA HEALTH PROGRAM OVERVIEW

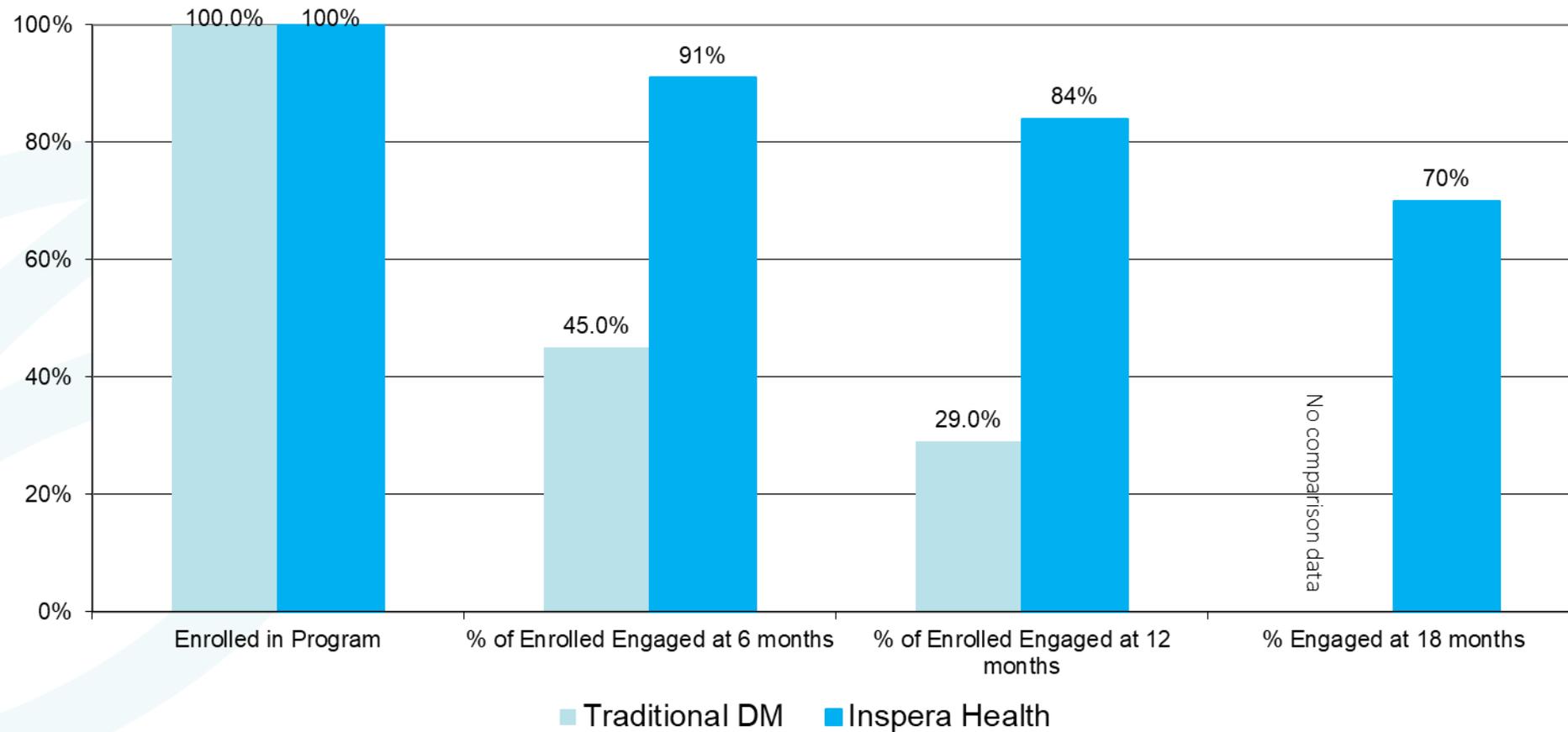


# PROGRAM SERVICES INCLUDE

Provider Type	Inspira Health Approach <u>Includes:</u>
Intake including Behavioral Health Assessment	5 – 7 hours
Health Improvement Coach Ongoing	18 – 24 hours
Behavioral Health	Up to 38 Sessions (co-pay support)
Biometric Testing	If not provided by employer or annual physical
Nutrition Counseling	18 Hours
Fitness Membership/Personal Trainer	12 Months/26 Hours
Financial Counseling	4 – 8 Hours
Massage Therapy	18 Hours
External (Licensed, Independent) resources for assessment & impact measurement	Pro-Change®, SF-36v2®, PAM®
<b>One on One Health Improvement Support</b>	<b>Range 50 – 125 hours; Average 72 hours</b>

# ENGAGEMENT & RETENTION

Disease management program participation over time



Lynch WD, et al. J Occup Environ Med. 2006.

# Participant Outcomes

- Focus on baseline measures at elevated or high risk
- For each person this is different
- We collapse 10 different measures into an **MCC Health Impact Index Score** (MCC HII Score)
- MCC HII Score aggregates and combines all at risk measures into a single baseline score
- Impact is measured quarterly



## MCC Impact Should be Systematically Measured

Area	High Risk (6-10 points)	Elevated Risk (1-5 points)	Data Source
Engagement	<80% engaged	<90% engaged	Confirmed 1 on 1 monthly session
Activity Minutes	Below 75/week	Below 150/week	Linked Activity Tracker
Sleep	Below 6 hours	Below 7 hours	
Physical Health (PCS) Mental Health (MCS) SF36v2®	Score of < 40 (one standard deviation below US population norm)	Score of < 50 (norm for US population)	Externally Validated Instruments (taken quarterly)
Health Activation PAM® Score	Level 1 or 2 (disengaged)	Midpoint of Level 3 (moderately engaged)	
BMI	Above 40	Above 30	Biometrics  collected with employer health fair or with follow up labs
Blood Pressure (Sys)	Over 130	Over 120	
LDL Cholesterol	Over 130	Over 100	
Blood Sugar (A1C/Glucose)	Over 8.1/225	Over 5.7/100	



# MCC HEALTH IMPACT INDEX OUTCOMES

## SUMMARY BY MEASURE

MCC Health Impact Index Score						
	Baseline	3 Mos	6 Mos	9 Mos	12 Mos	Graduation
	<b>30.7</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>19.0</b>
BMI	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.6
Exercise	5.8	4.9	3.2	2.9	3.2	3.3
Blood Sugar	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8
LDL	1.9	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.0
Mental Health	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.5	1.4
Health Engagement	1.9	1.6	1.2	1.3	0.9	1.1
Physical Health	3.2	2.7	2.2	2.1	1.7	1.8
Sleep	3.6	3.6	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.2
Blood Pressure	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.4	2.7	2.3
Engagement	5.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.5	1.5



# MCC HEALTH IMPACT INDEX OUTCOMES OVERALL SUMMARY

	n	Baseline	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months	Improvement @ 12 Mo	Graduation (15–24 Months)	Improvement @ Graduation
Cohort 1	154	30.7	27.4	22.6	23.3	20.0	34%	19.0	38%

**We see 30+% improvement in health & 30+% reduction in claims costs**

**Targeting and transforming the health of members with 5+ lifelong chronic conditions is possible!**

# Data Review – MCC Population

## 1. Large Claim Impact – 3-year aggregate look – active members only

- a) Overall, by age, by employment tenure, by membership categories

## 2. Categorize Chronic Conditions –to 5 diagnosis levels as lifestyle diagnosis often not coded primary

- a) Chronic Condition Indicator (CCI) from HCUP – publicly available <https://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/toolssoftware/chronic/chronic.jsp>
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## 4. Develop a program or integrate current resources to target this population

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- b) Measure change sustainability NOT change initiation
- c) Patience, Diligence, Accountability and Compassion must be integrated

# THE COST OF DOING NOTHING

## 500 Members

Average Age	52
Average Tenure years	19
Years to Medicare	13
Attrition	5%
MCC Trend	4%
PV Discount	2%

## Future Health Costs for Inspera Health Program Invitees

	# of 5+ MCC Members (10% enroll)	Average Claims /Member	Expected Health Claims	Include Indirect Health Costs*	Average Total Health Costs /Member
<b>Current (2019)</b>	50	\$33,380	\$1,669,000	\$2,587,000	\$51,739
2020	50	\$34,035	\$1,702,000	\$2,638,000	\$52,753
2021	48	\$34,702	\$1,648,000	\$2,555,000	\$53,788
2022	45	\$35,382	\$1,597,000	\$2,475,000	\$54,843
2023	43	\$36,076	\$1,547,000	\$2,397,000	\$55,918
<b>4 Year Totals</b>			<b>\$6,493,000</b>	<b>\$10,064,000</b>	

\*For every dollar spent in health claims cost for people with chronic conditions there is another \$0.55 of indirect spend.  
 Source: Hoffman, Catherine et al. Persons With Chronic Conditions: Their Prevalence and Costs. JAMA. Nov 13, 1996.

# Closing Question

Will a typical one-size-fits-all approach to health plan design sustainably improve the health of members with 5 or more lifelong chronic conditions ?

# Thank you



For more information on the Inspera Health Program please contact:

Lee Murphy, PhD, CPA, MBA  
CEO/Founder  
[Lee.Murphy@insperahealth.com](mailto:Lee.Murphy@insperahealth.com)  
630.444.2022

# PARTICIPANT EXAMPLE RECENT GRADUATE

## Overview

### Diabetes & Obesity

No understanding of diabetes

A1C 8.3

### Chronic Stress

Marital

Parental

Education

### GI Issues

GERD

IBS

7 Rx

### Intrinsic Motivation:

**Lose weight and improve diabetes so I can be there and play with my two young children**

## Program Overview

- ▶ Health education
- ▶ Behavioral Counseling
- ▶ Personal Training
- ▶ Nutrition Counseling
- ▶ 22 months ending 12/2018

*All services included as part of program costs. For mental health counseling we cover co-payments*

## Impact

- ▶ Fully engaged in diabetic care:
  - Est. w/endocrinologist
  - Checking BS 2-3x daily; avg 100
  - **Expressed confidence in ability to maintain diabetic care ongoing**
- ▶ Chronic Stress
  - Divorced, moved to new home
  - Began school to improve career options
  - **Maintaining counseling for self & children; diet & exercise for self through stress of divorce & move**
- ▶ Metrics
  - **A1C 8.3 reduced 20%** to 6.7
  - **31-pound weight loss** (193 to 162) BMI 34.2 to 28.7
  - **Sleep improved 60%**; 5 hours to 8 hours
  - Health Engagement 27% better, (PAM 62 to 79, level 3 to 4)

# PARTICIPANT EXAMPLE MORE IMMEDIATE IMPACT (SPOUSE)

## Overview

Diabetes /Hypertension /Hyperlipidemia

Sleep

previously evaluated for Obstructive Sleep Apnea, disclosed had sleep issues

Sedentary

Chronic Pain

9 Rx

*Struggling to make it through day due to lack of restorative sleep. His PCP told him no change = death.*

### **Intrinsic Motivation:**

**Do more things with my grandkids, grow old with my wife, play baseball again.**

## Program Overview

- ▶ See PCP for sleep – Reinforced use of CPAP
- ▶ Nutrition counseling
- ▶ Personal Training
- ▶ **9 months still active**

***“I needed to buy a new belt”***

*All services included as part of program costs. For mental health counseling we cover co-payments*

## Impact to Date

- ▶ Diuretic, Statin & Glipizide doses halved by PCP
- ▶ **Daily joint pain gone**
- ▶ **Cut out all junk food, fast food & sugary drinks**
- ▶ Metrics:
  - Now getting 7-8 hours of restful sleep
  - 15 lb. weight loss (295 to 280)
  - Blood sugars from 230s to 125
  - Activity 0 to 300 min/week
  - Health Engagement improved 20% (PAM 50 to 60; level 2 to level 3)



# PARTICIPANT EXAMPLE MORE IMMEDIATE IMPACT

## Overview

Nausea & vomiting since surgery 1 yr ago,  
Zofran 2x/wk

Persistent fluid in pelvic cavity

Chronic Pain (10-point scale)

Arthritis, hip (6) daily

Bilateral hand and finger (4) daily

Back (4) constant

Diabetes

Blood sugars in 140s

8 Rx

### Intrinsic Motivation:

**I want to be pain free so I can play with my granddaughter and walk a 5k again.**

## Program Overview

- ▶ Personal Training
- ▶ Massage
- ▶ Nutrition Counseling
- ▶ **10 months still active**

*All services included as part of program costs. For mental health counseling we cover co-payments*

## Impact to Date

- ▶ Nausea gone
  - Fluid in peritoneal cavity gone
- ▶ Chronic Pain
  - Daily joint pain gone
  - **"I never realized how much the chronic pain negatively impacted my mood."**
- ▶ Diabetes
  - Working with MD to decrease insulin
- ▶ Metrics
  - **19 lb. weight loss** (241 to 222)
  - Blood sugars from 140 to 65-95
  - Health Engagement improved 17% (PAM 72 to 84; level 3 to level 4)
  - **Physical Wellbeing improved 50%** (SF36 from 36 to 55)
  - **Activity – 0 to 450 min/week**

# Example:

## Measuring Mental Health Outcomes

SF36v2: 36 questions on overall well-being

2 composite scores: Physical & Mental Health

Mental Health Composite has 4 primary sub-scales:

Vitality (level of energy)

Social Functioning (impact of mental health on social life)

Role Emotional (impact of mental health on work performance)

Mental Health (questions on mood)

Scoring – 50 = US adult non-institutionalized population average

Every 10 points in either direction is a standard deviation

*a 5-point change on an individual level is significant;*

*a 3-point change on a group level is significant*

Inspera Health Program Participants:

15% have MCS score of <40      High Risk

30% have MCS score of 40 – 50      Elevated Risk

55% have MCS score of 50+      Lower risk

Example:

Mental Health Impact

SF 36v2<sup>®</sup> Mental Composite Score (MCS) Change

## Inspira Health Program participants at graduation

	<u>Baseline Avg.</u>	<u>Graduation Avg.</u>	<u>Change</u>
High Risk	31.5	46.2	+47%

14-point change is transformational

Note: baseline below 34 is diagnosable clinical depression

Elevated Risk	44.8	50.2	+10%
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5.4-point change in a group is significant

Lower Risk	56.7	55.7	(2%)
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1.0-point change in a group is insignificant

Overall	49.6	52.7	+6%
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3.0-point change in a group is significant

Overall population average masks meaningful analysis;

Inspira Health impact is reported on those individuals in the high risk & elevated risk cohorts

# INSPERA HEALTH IMPACT

## 5 Year Client Case Study Outcomes



Over **85%** of participants report **improved health**.<sup>[1]</sup>



**71%** lose weight at 6, 12, 18 months. Average loss 4%<sup>[2]</sup>



**90%** increase physical activity at 6, 12, 18 months. Average increase 600%<sup>[3]</sup>



**2.5x Return on Investment**<sup>[4,5]</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Externally Validated Instruments

<sup>2</sup> Health Impact: Biometrics

<sup>3</sup> Health Impact: Behaviors

<sup>4</sup> Financial Impact

# MCC HEALTH IMPACT INDEX SCORING

Category	 Engagement	 Health Impact: Biometrics	 Health Impact: Behaviors	 Externally Validated Instruments
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>5 points</b>	<b>40 points</b> (10 pts each)	<b>20 points</b> (10 pts each)	<b>30 points</b> (10 pts each)
Measures:	Engagement in Program	BMI Blood Sugar (A1C or Glucose) Blood Pressure Cholesterol	Activity Minutes Sleep	Health Activation (PAM) Physical Well-Being (SF36) Mental Well-Being (SF36)

### Scoring the MCC Health Improvement Index:

- All measures are scored 1-10 except engagement which is 1-5
- Baseline established at intake
- Scoring for each measure: High risk between 6 & 10; Elevated risk between 1 & 5; Normal risk = 0
- Lower score is healthier; reduction in score shows health improvement



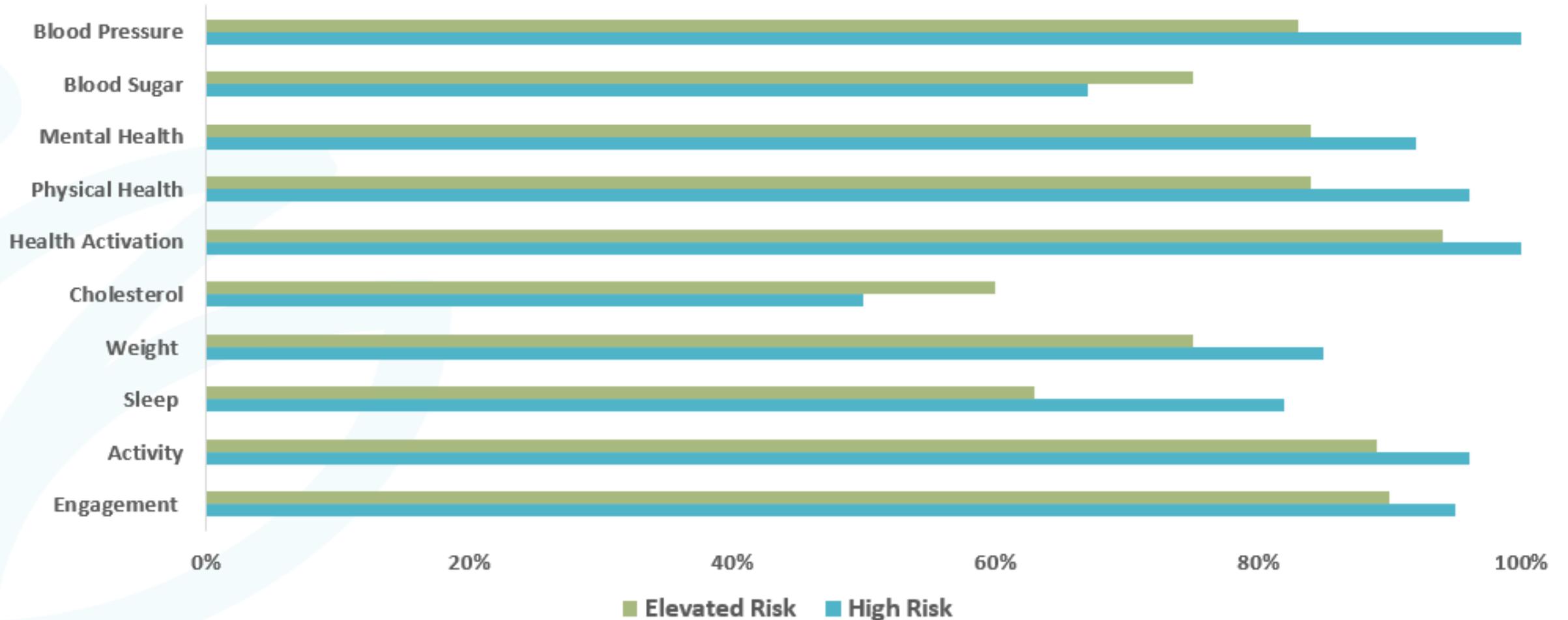
# MCC HEALTH IMPACT INDEX OUTCOMES

## DETAILS BY PARTICIPANT

### MCC Health Improvement Index (MCC HII)

Unique ID	Timing	Enrollment Date	Graduation Date	Early Exit Date	Early Exit Reason	MCC HII Score	Engagement	A1c or Glucose	Blood Pressure	BMI	LDL Choles	Activity Minutes	Sleep Hours	PAM Score	SF36 MCS Score	SF36 PCS Score
10000872	Baseline	7/11/2017	9/21/18			<b>45</b>	5	1	8	0	1	7	10	8	0	5
10000872	Latest	7/11/2017	9/21/18			<b>28</b>	1	1	0	0	3	3	9	8	0	3
10000874	Baseline	8/17/2017	8/27/19			<b>41</b>	5	7	4	2	2	10	6	0	0	5
10000874	Latest	8/17/2017	8/27/19			<b>19</b>	0	3	0	2	2	3	6	0	0	3
10000920	Baseline	4/6/2017	3/20/19			<b>30</b>	5	1	6	8	0	10	0	0	0	0
10000920	Latest	4/6/2017	3/20/19			<b>22</b>	0	0	5	7	0	10	0	0	0	0
10000921	Baseline	4/13/2017	3/13/19			<b>38</b>	5	3	5	10	0	10	0	0	0	5
10000921	Latest	4/13/2017	3/13/19			<b>32</b>	1	5	6	10	0	5	0	0	0	5

# % of Participants Showing Improvement at Graduation (15 – 24 months)



# Q&A



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Save the Date for EBRI's next Policy Forum on Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Our next webinar, “Cost Differences for Oncology Medicines Based on Site of Treatment”, will be on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Reserve your spot today at [ebri.org](http://ebri.org)!