



Traveling Abroad for Medical & Dental Care: A Survey

January 2020

Study Overview

The cost of medical and dental care has increased substantially in the United States in the past decade. Even those with insurance (many of whom face high deductibles and out-of-pocket costs) may be enticed by the idea of receiving care at a lower cost outside the United States.

Highlights from this survey:

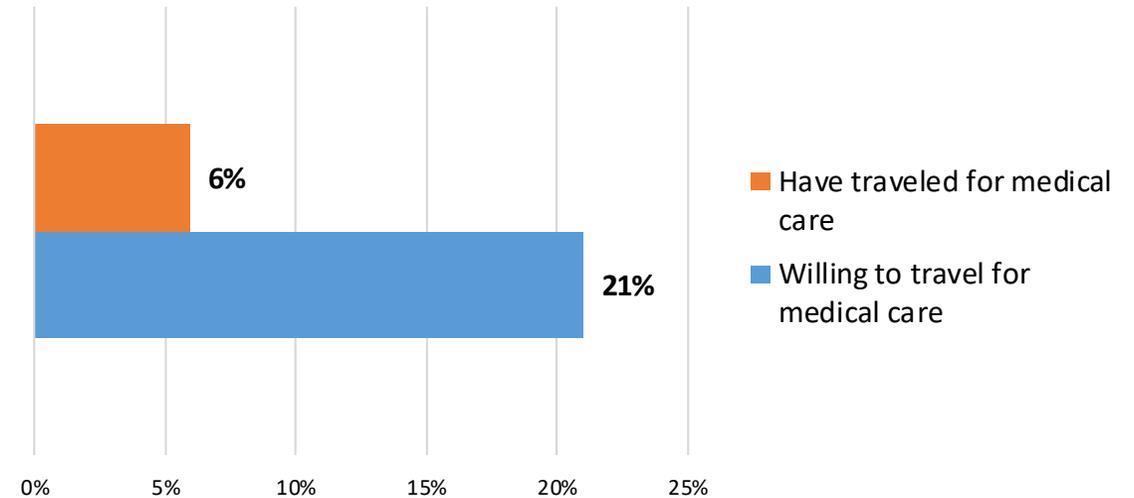
- 21% of respondents were willing to travel internationally for medical care, while 6% have already done so.
- 60% of those who had traveled outside the United States for medical reasons received dental care or treatment, while 22% had a medically necessary surgery and 20% received vision care.
- 74% of those willing to consider international travel for medical or dental care were enticed by the possibility of lower costs.

Findings are compiled from voluntary surveys of 1,860 consumers who purchased Medicare plans or individual and family plans compliant with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) through eHealth. Surveys were conducted in October 2019.

More than one in twenty have traveled internationally for medical care but many more are willing to do so:

- 6% of respondents said they had traveled outside the United States for medical care at least once.
- 21% of those who have not traveled internationally for medical care say they are willing to do so.

Have you ever traveled outside the U.S. for medical care? Are you willing to do so?



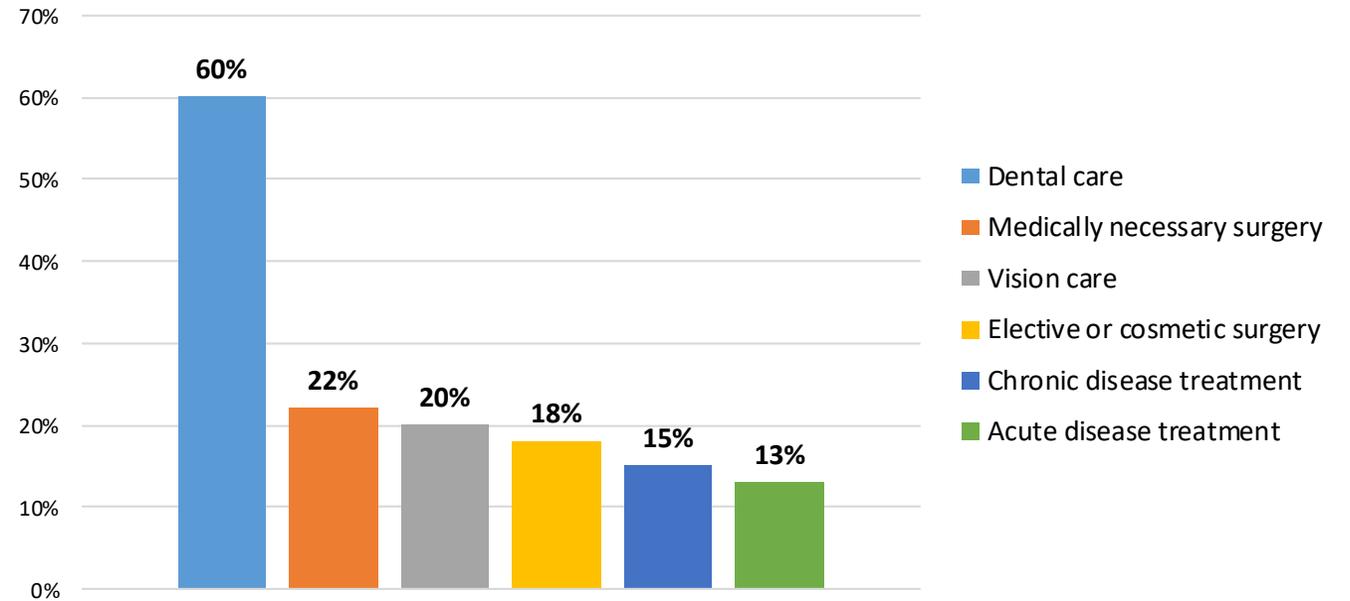
Younger people more willing to travel outside the United States for care: 40% of respondents between the ages of 35 and 44 who had not previously traveled internationally for medical care said they were willing to do so, compared to 16% of those ages 71 through 79.

Medicare enrollees less willing to travel outside the United States for care: 18% of respondents enrolled in Medicare coverage who had not traveled internationally for medical care were willing to do so, compared to 30% of non-Medicare respondents.

Dental treatment was the top reason for traveling outside the United States for medical care:

- 60% received dental care or services.
- 22% had a medically necessary surgery.
- 20% received vision care.
- 18% had elective or cosmetic surgery.
- 15% received chronic disease treatment.
- 13% received acute disease treatment.

What kind of care did you receive outside the United States?



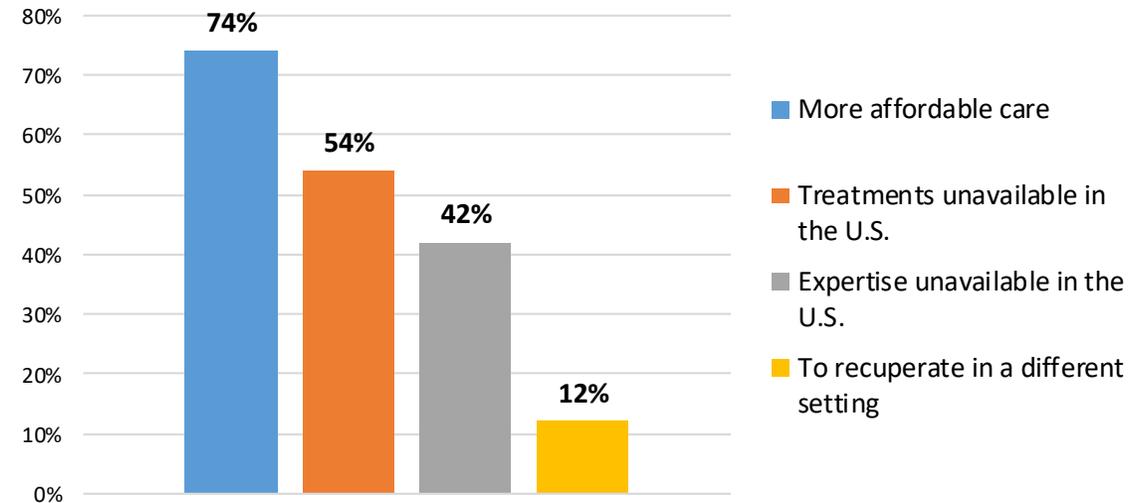
Medicare and non-Medicare respondents differed on care received internationally:

- 71% of respondents enrolled in ACA health insurance who had traveled outside the United States for medical care did so for dental care, compared to 53% of Medicare enrollees.
- 33% of ACA enrollees who had traveled outside the United States for medical care did so for elective or cosmetic surgery, compared to 8% of Medicare enrollees.

Among those who were willing to travel outside the United States for medical care:

- 74% would do so for more affordable prices.
- 54% would do so for access to treatments not available in the U.S.
- 42% would do so to access expertise that may not be available in the U.S.
- 12% would want to recuperate in a different setting.

What might inspire you to travel outside the U.S. for medical care?



Lower income Medicare consumers more likely to consider travel to save money on care: Among those with an annual household income of less than \$25,000, 70% said they would travel overseas for more affordable care, compared to 53% with an annual income between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

Methodology Note

This report's findings are based on voluntary surveys of consumers who purchased Medicare insurance products and health insurance plans compliant with the Affordable Care Act through eHealth. The surveys were conducted in October 2019 and a total of 1,860 responses were collected. All figures were rounded to the nearest full percentage point. Total percentages may add to slightly more or less than 100 due to rounding or when more than one response to a question was allowed.

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