THE CAREGIVER’S DIRECT MEDICAL COSTS IN EPILEPSY
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Methods

Eligible survey participants were: ≥18 years old, living in the US, able to read and write in English, provided informed consent, self-identified as caregivers of PWE, and 500 caregivers of PWE were recruited through the Epilepsy Foundation and Lightspeed Research panels and surveyed. Survey questions included:

• Primary care doctor visits
• Psychiatric visits
• Emergency room (ER) visits
• Inpatient hospitalizations

IRB approval was obtained through the Sterling Institutional Review, Atlanta, GA.

Results

Direct medical costs were estimated for all subgroups of caregivers of PWE exceeded those from the general population of US adults. (Table 3, Figure 3)

Annual direct medical costs for all US caregivers of PWE were $12 billion.

In the US, we estimated that 1.9 million caregivers of PWE, distributed as caregivers of:
- Children with low seizure frequency epilepsy: 7%
- Children with high seizure frequency epilepsy: 17%
- Adults with low seizure frequency epilepsy: 26%
- Adults with high seizure frequency epilepsy: 47%

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