

Functional and Clinical Complexities of Medicare Beneficiaries in Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living

July 15, 2024

ATI Advisory



Nursing facility and assisted living residents with Medicare often experienced high levels of functional impairment and multiple chronic conditions.

- ✓ 61% of residents in either setting were **women**, and 42% of residents were age **85 or older**.
- ✓ 93% of nursing facility residents and 49% of assisted living residents **experienced difficulty with 3+ activities of daily living (ADLs)**.
- ✓ 94% of nursing facility residents and 53% of assisted living residents **lived with 4+ chronic conditions**.
 - 52% of residents in either setting **lived with diagnosed dementia**.

About This Work

The Senior Care Pharmacy Coalition (SCPC) engaged ATI Advisory to characterize the clinical and functional complexity of Medicare beneficiaries residing in two settings commonly served by long-term care (LTC) pharmacies: nursing facilities and assisted living.

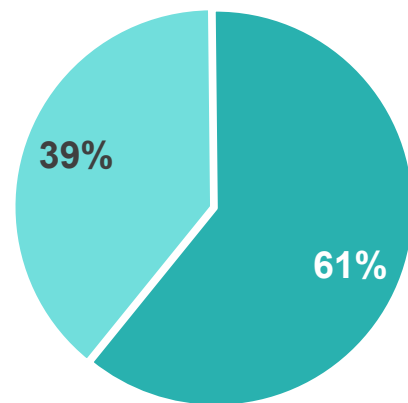
This work builds on SCPC's [past analyses](#) assessing the needs and characteristics of individuals served by LTC pharmacies.

Profile of Medicare Beneficiaries in Nursing Facilities or Assisted Living, 2021

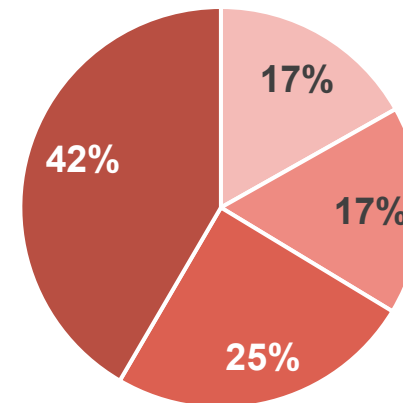
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Residents in Nursing Facilities or Assisted Living: Demographic, Clinical, and Functional Profile



■ Male ■ Female



■ <65 ■ 65-74 ■ 75-84 ■ 85+

87%

Difficulty Bathing



79%

Difficulty Dressing



73%

Difficulty Toileting



68%

Difficulty with Chair Transfers



67%

Difficulty Walking



53%

Difficulty Eating



80%

Have High Blood Pressure



52%

Have Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia



50%

Have Depression



41%

Have Heart Disease

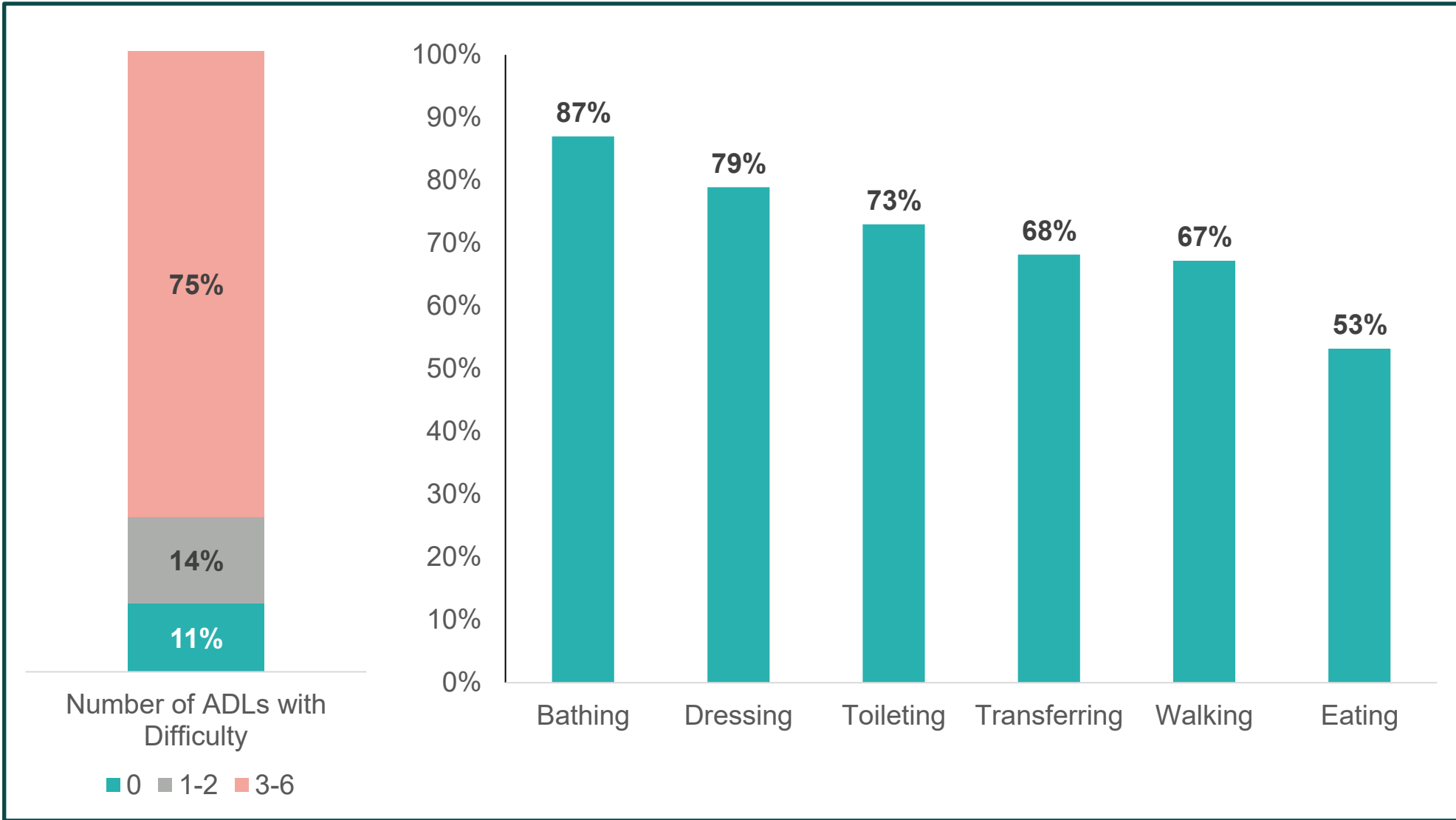
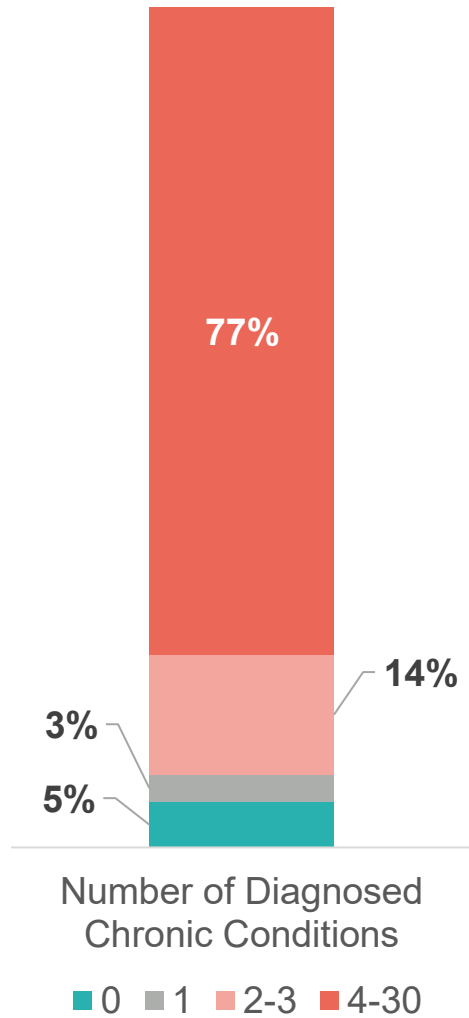


39%

Have Diabetes



Most Residents in Nursing Facilities or Assisted Living have Multiple Chronic Conditions and Need Assistance with 3+ ADLs

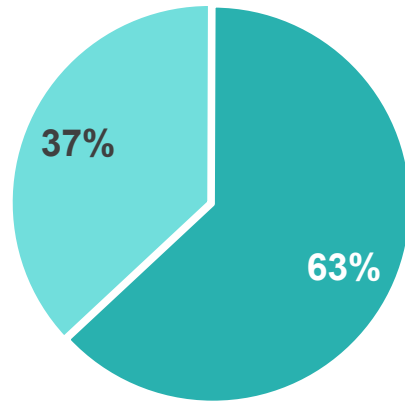


Profile of Medicare Beneficiaries in Nursing Facilities, 2021

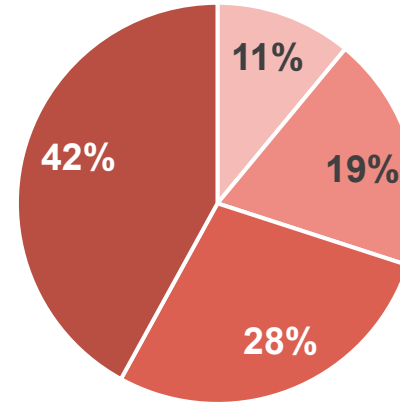
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Nursing Facility Residents: Demographic, Clinical, and Functional Profile



■ Male ■ Female



■ <65 ■ 65-74 ■ 75-84 ■ 85+

98%

Difficulty Bathing



93%

Difficulty Dressing



92%

Difficulty Toileting



89%

Difficulty with Chair Transfers



87%

Difficulty Walking



72%

Difficulty Eating



91%

Have High Blood Pressure



66%

Have Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia



61%

Have Depression



51%

Have Heart Disease

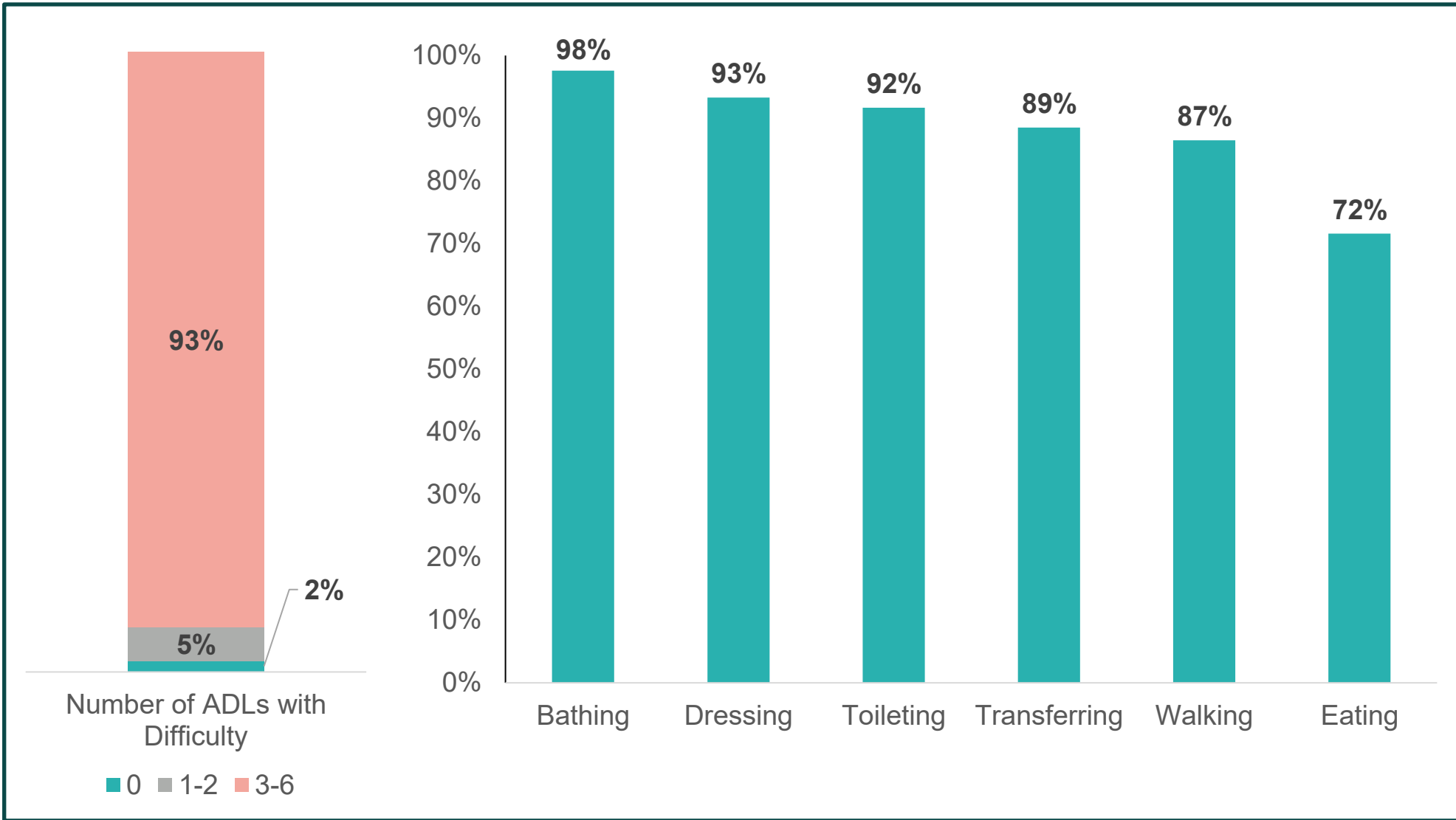
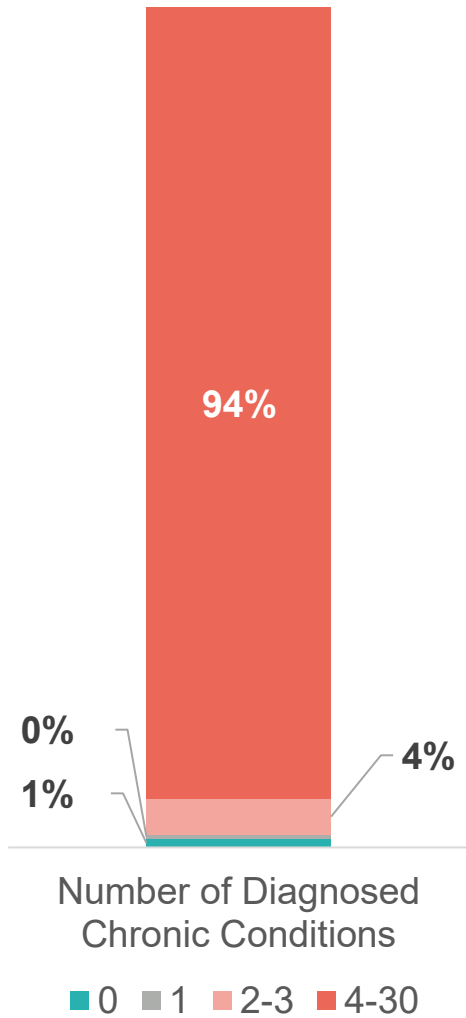


50%

Have Diabetes



Most Nursing Facility Residents have Multiple Chronic Conditions and Need Assistance with 3+ ADLs

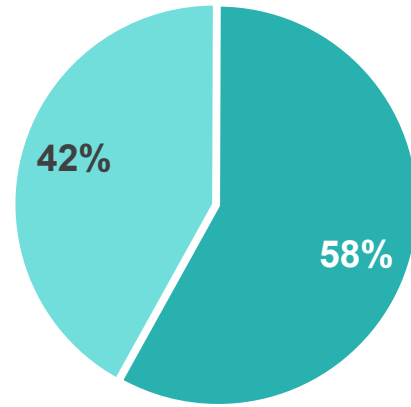


Profile of Medicare Beneficiaries in Assisted Living, 2021

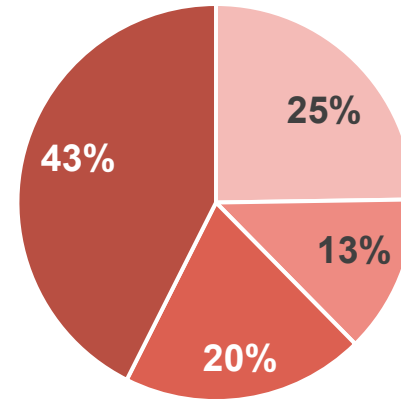
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Assisted Living Residents: Demographic, Clinical, and Functional Profile



■ Male ■ Female



■ <65 ■ 65-74 ■ 75-84 ■ 85+

71%
Difficulty Bathing

57%
Difficulty Dressing

46%
Difficulty Toileting

38%
Difficulty with Chair Transfers

39%
Difficulty Walking

26%
Difficulty Eating

63%
Have High Blood Pressure

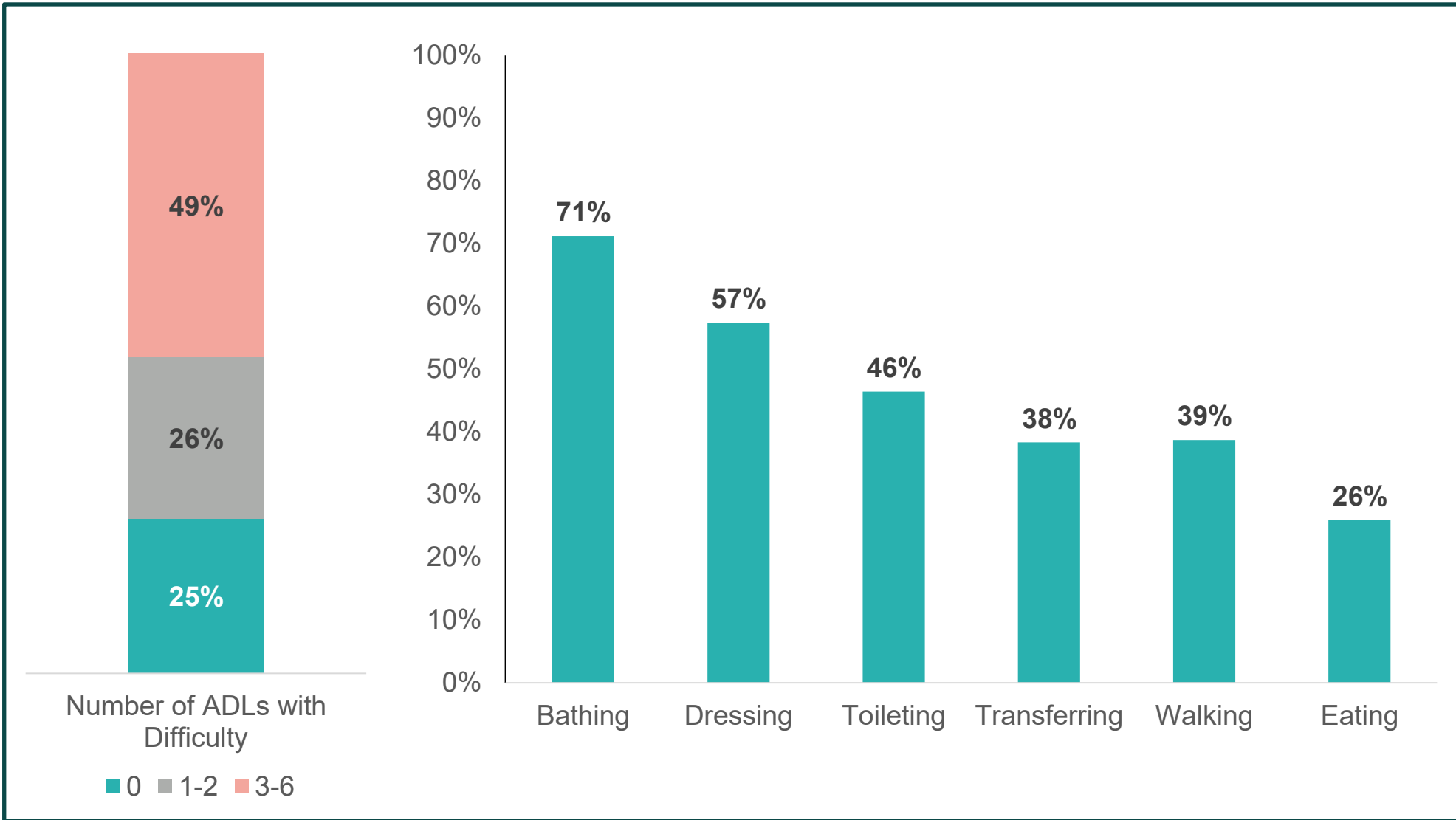
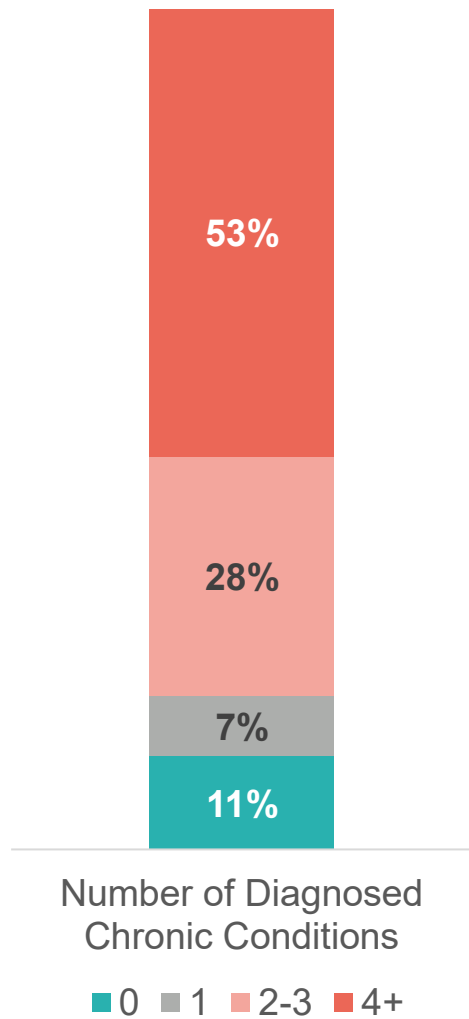
32%
Have Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia

33%
Have Depression

25%
Have Heart Disease

23%
Have Diabetes

Most Assisted Living Residents have Multiple Chronic Conditions and Almost Half Need Assistance with 3+ ADLs



- ✓ The 2021 Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey was used for this analysis.
 - The MCBS consists of a representative sample of the Medicare population nationwide.
- ✓ Analyzed residential setting populations are defined as:
 - **Nursing Facility:** Individuals residing in a nursing facility for at least 100 days at the time of the survey.
 - **Assisted Living:** Individuals residing in assisted living communities at the time of the survey.
- ✓ The chronic condition analysis was limited to Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare FFS throughout the survey year.
- ✓ Chronic condition estimates reflect diagnosed conditions only and were based on the Chronic Condition Warehouse (CCW) algorithms for [30 chronic conditions](#).
- ✓ ADL data came from survey responses and Nursing Facility Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessment records linked to the survey.

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