A new survey* reveals that while Americans say they’re aware of heart failure, many have fundamental misunderstandings about its causes and symptoms. Heart failure affects more than just those who are living with the disease. In fact, caregivers are more likely to feel emotionally impacted by heart failure than the people they care for.

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Americans have misunderstandings about heart failure

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Caregivers carry a heavy burden

Heart failure affects more than just those who are living with the disease. In fact, caregivers are more likely to feel emotionally impacted by heart failure than the people they care for. 65% of caregivers feel it’s hard to get motivated, 25% say they don’t have enough support, and 40% say it’s expensive. 82% of caregivers say they’re aware yet they feel depressed as a result of dealing with heart failure. 56% of caregivers say they’re aware yet they feel depressed as a result of dealing with heart failure.

Caregivers are more knowledgeable than patients

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Managing heart failure is difficult for patients

Heart failure affects my relationships

Heart failure affects my ability to travel

Heart failure affects my ability to participate in family events

I feel depressed as a result of dealing with heart failure

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About the survey:

During the spring of 2015, the American Heart Association, with support from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, commissioned an online survey of more than 1,600 people as the first in an annual review of heart failure knowledge, awareness, impact and attitudes in America. The survey polled over 1,000 members of the general public, as well as 400 patients with heart failure and 200 caregivers.