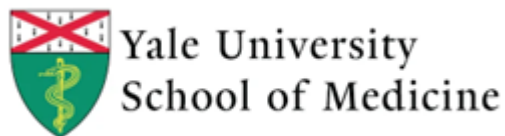


# Analysis of Online Crowdfunding Prevalence, Motives, and Success Factors Among Patients Pursuing Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery in the United States

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To determine whether patients pursuing MBS use online crowdfunding.



To characterize the medical and non-medical sources of financial hardship for MBS patients.



To determine what factors are associated with successful crowdfunding among MBS patients.



GoFundMe™



GoFundMe™

**Data Source:** GoFundMe from 2012 to 2023

**Study Variables:**

- (1) Sociodemographic characteristics
- (2) Clinical characteristics
- (3) Fundraising motives
  - Medical costs
  - Non-medical costs

**Ordered logistic regression:**


Outcome: \$ raised, categorized as: <\$500, \$500-\$1999, \$2000-\$4999, >\$5000

Covariates: Campaign characteristics, county-level SES, year

# Help Raise Money for My Bariatric Surgery



 John Doe is organizing this fundraiser.

 Donation protected

Hello everyone! My name is Sarah, and I'm reaching out with a heartfelt request for support. For years, I've struggled with my weight and the numerous health issues that have come with it. After many consultations and attempts to manage it through diet and exercise, my doctors and I have determined that bariatric surgery is my best option for achieving a healthier and more fulfilling life. This surgery will not only help me regain my health but also enable me to be more present and active for my family. The total cost of the surgery and associated expenses is \$15,000, and I'm humbly asking for your help to make this life-changing procedure possible. Any contribution, big or small, would mean the world to me and my family. Thank you so much for considering supporting my journey to a healthier future.

[Read more](#)

\$542 raised of \$5,000 goal

10 donations

Share

Donate now

-  John Doe  
\$50 · 6 mos
-  Jane Doe  
\$25 · 6 mos
-  John Smith  
\$100 · 6 mos
-  Jane Smith  
\$100 · 7 mos
-  John Public  
\$50 · 7 mos

See all

☆ See top

*Not a real patient,  
AI-generated*

## To determine whether patients seeking MBS use online crowdfunding.

### 539 GoFundMe campaigns

33.6% for VSG

24.1% for RYGB

2.0% for BPD



9.50% seeking MBS in a foreign country



9.10% MBS to bridge to a 2nd procedure



45.1% non-surgical weight loss attempts



73.1% created by the patient



53.4% had health insurance



56.8% >1 comorbidity



Median \$ Requested = **\$8,000**

Median \$ Raised = **\$860**



8.0% raised all their requested amount

63.1% earned <25% of their requested

**To characterize the medical and non-medical sources of financial hardship MBS patients.**

Direct **Medical** Cost: 53.6%  
Direct **Non-Medical** Cost: 35.1%



15.6%



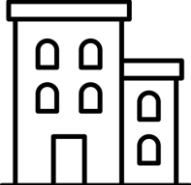
10.8%



10.2%



7.1%



5.8%

**To determine what factors are associated with successful crowdfunding among MBS patients.**

Non-surgical weight loss attempts  
(Ref: None mentioned)



**OR 0.59**  
95% CI  
0.37-0.94

Mental health comorbidities  
(Ref: None mentioned)



**OR 0.55**  
95% CI  
0.32-0.95



Patients pursuing MBS in the US use **online crowdfunding** to subsidize the costs of surgery.

Both **medical and non-medical expenses** are sources of financial strain for patients.

[Home](#) > [Obesity Surgery](#) > [Article](#)

## The Stigma of Obesity Surgery: Negative Evaluations Based on Weight Loss History

Original Contributions | Published: 22 March 2013

Volume 23, pages 1545–1550, (2013) [Cite this article](#)

Crowdfunding efforts among MBS patients are **largely unsuccessful**.

Disclosure of the **clinical impact of obesity** did not lead to more crowdfunding success.

# Thank You



Yale University  
School of Medicine



National Clinician  
Scholars Program

YaleNewHaven**Health**  
Bridgeport Hospital

XXVII Ifso World Congress



Melbourne 2024