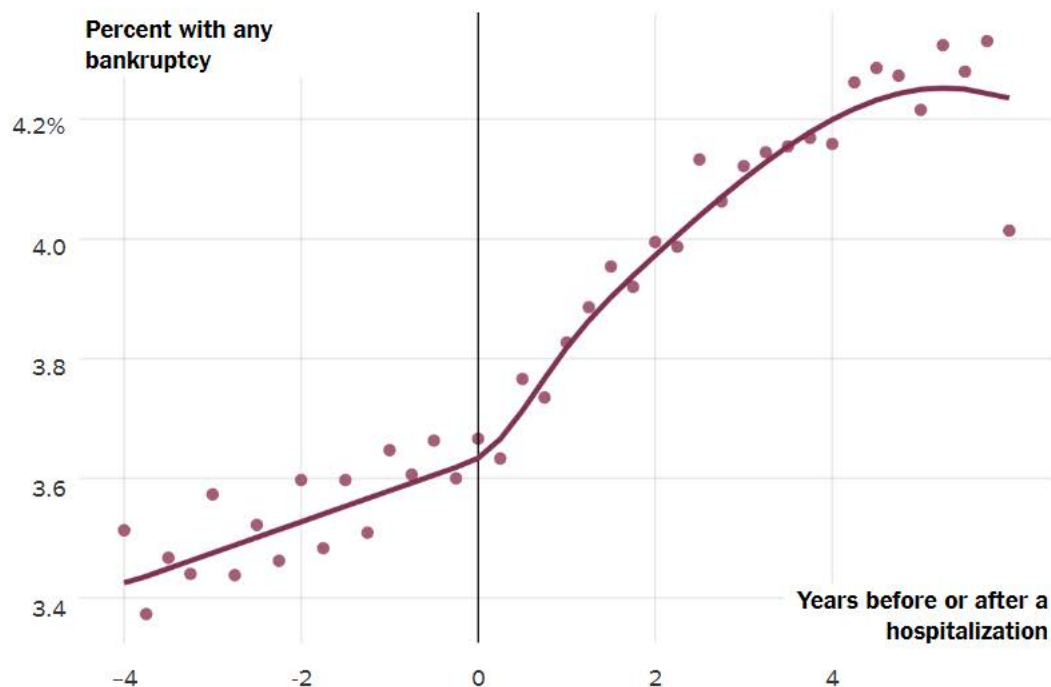


# First Illness, Then Financial Distress

For Californians between 25 and 64, the risk of bankruptcy rises after a hospitalization.



Source: "The Economic Consequences of Hospital Admissions"

Other research supports the notion that serious medical problems are associated with work interruptions. A 2015 survey conducted by The Upshot and the Kaiser Family Foundation found that, among people struggling to pay medical bills, 29 percent said their illness or injury had led to [a drop in household income](#). In general, the United States doesn't provide much sick leave, disability or wage insurance to protect people from those kinds of costs.