

DO YOU KNOW YOUR SICKLE CELL STATUS?

First date Questions

SET-UP

1 What are Haemoglobin Genotypes?

A genotype is the entire genetic constitution of an individual with reference to a single trait, set of traits, or an entire complex of traits.

The Types



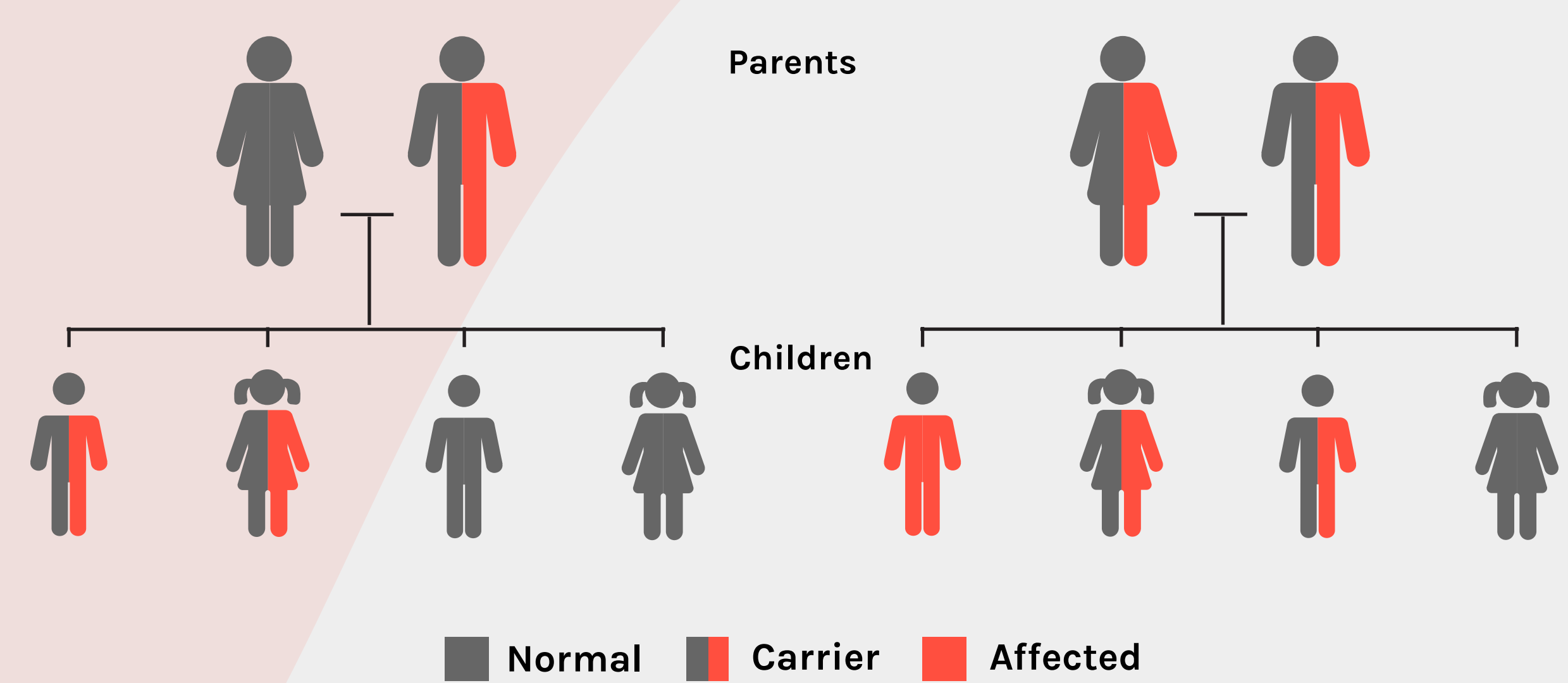
2 What is sickle cell?

Sickle cell disease(SCD) is an inherited blood disorder that interferes with the delivery of oxygen to the tissues.

Individuals with sickle cells experience severe pains in body parts where oxygen flow is compromised due to blockage in the blood vessels.

Place information on who a sickle cell carrier is and who a patient is

HOW THE TRAIT IS PASSED ON



CONFLICT - WHY SHOULD I CARE?

3 "I've never heard of sickle cell, does it affect only some people?"

Sickle Cell was the bodies coping mechanism to malaria, hence it is predominant in tropical areas. It affects both male and females and is not specific to any race.

SICKLE CELL IS NOT RACE SPECIFIC

Race Distribution of SCD carriers in Michigan from 1997-2014



Race Distribution of SCD patients in Michigan from 1997-2014



SICKLE CELL TODAY

100,000
AMERICANS
ARE LIVING WITH SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

1/500
African-American
births have SCD

1/36,000
Hispanic-Americans
births have SCD

1/12
African-American
carry the SCD trait.

4 What is the big deal then? Is it curable?

Sickle Cell disease is not curable and is accompanied with a variety of adverse effects and symptoms. These effects affect the patient in a number of ways.

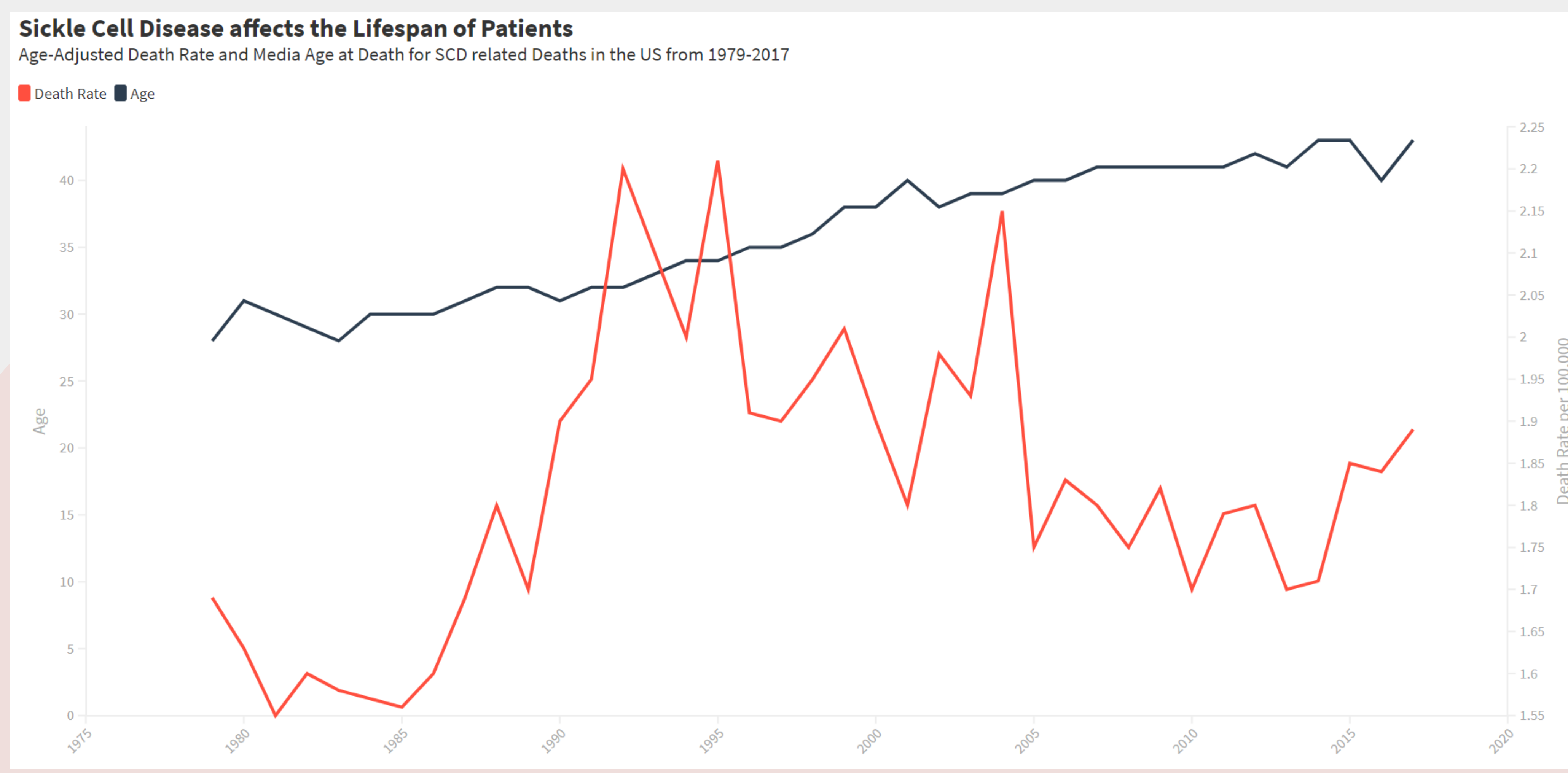
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL

- Asthma
- Bone or Osteopathic disorders
- Bronchitis
- Cardiovascular events
- Chronic leg or skin ulcers
- Hearing loss
- Jaundice
- Loss of sight
- Migraines
- Organ damage
- Pregnancy complications
- Emotional impacts

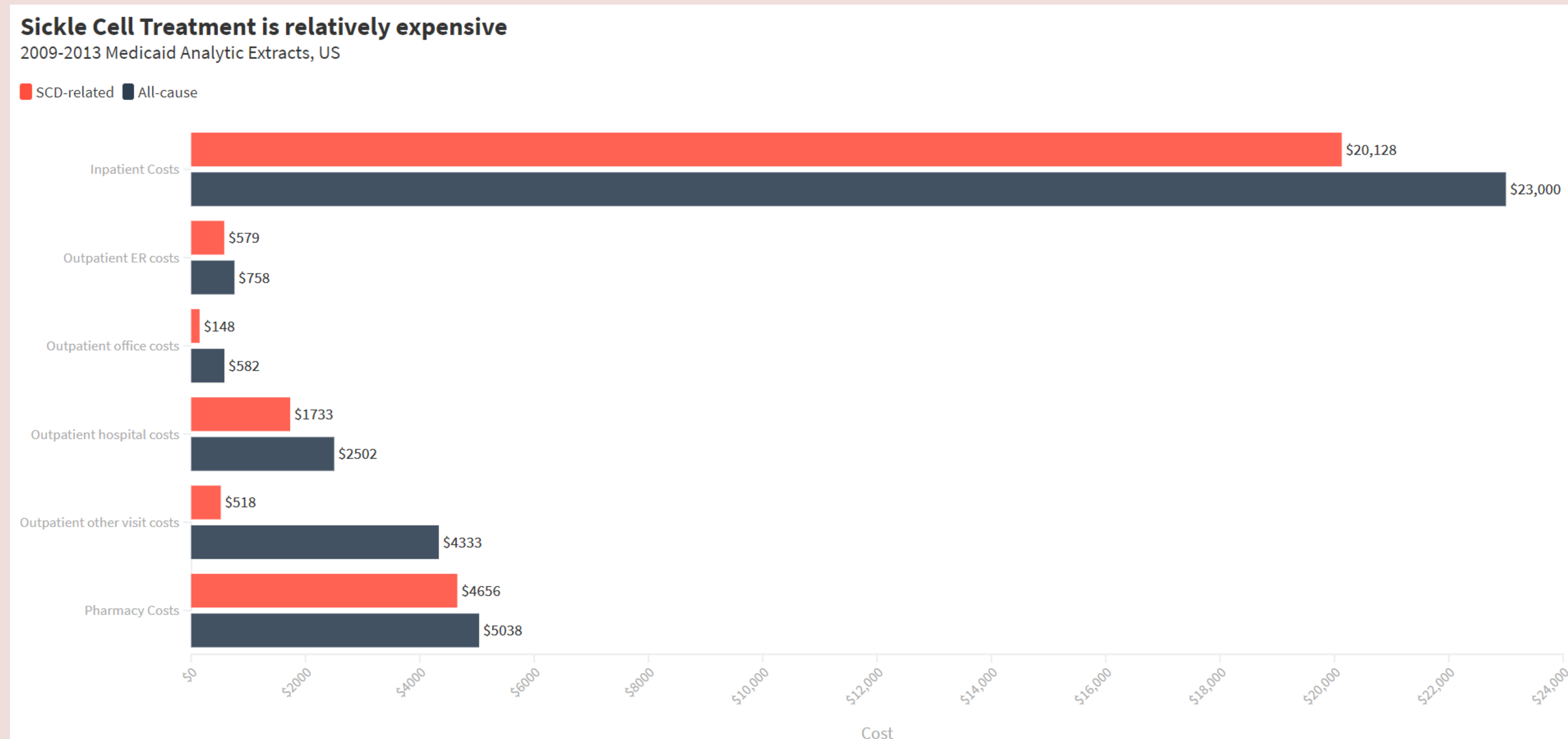
LIFESTYLE EFFECTS

- Caring for themselves
- Managing relationships
- Managing work and career
- Concerns about their future health

5 Because of usual health complications, the mortality rate of sickle cell disease patients is relatively higher than non-sickle cell patients.



6 The advancement in medicine has seen to an improvement in the lives of SCD Patients. Despite the fact the numbers on death rate and age at death have improved over the years, the medical procedures enabling this amelioration are rather high.



CALL TO ACTION

Despite its effects, sickle cell can easily be avoided. It starts with knowing your Sickle Cell Status. Being aware of your status, and the effects of the disease give you the necessary awareness on who to enter a child-bearing relationship with.

You can easily check your status by going to your nearest hospital and asking to do a sickle cell screening test. You can check the www.sicklecelldisease.org to find testing locations in your community.

A typical test ranges from \$3.07 - \$5.09 and typically take a day to get results. This can save you thousands of dollars in the future.

So anytime you go on a first date seeking a long term union be sure to ask your date if they know their sickle cell status, cause this can go a long way in reducing the prevalence of the diseases.

We cannot cure Sickle Cell, but we can prevent it.