**Sample Social Media Data: Michael Becoming Physically Disabled**

Below is a series of Facebook social media posts for qualitative data analysis. The participant, Michael [pseudonym] is a single, retired, low-income man in his mid-60s. He is morbidly obese (380+ pounds), a diabetic with hypertension, clinically depressed, with a history of chronic kidney disease and prostate cancer.

In November 2019 he began an emergent condition of becoming physically disabled. He publicly posted his status for his friends and through private messages to a close friend. Friends’ responses to the posts could not be included due to privacy and confidentiality concerns. Michael’s posts are verbatim with all spelling, punctuation, and formatting errors retained. Three images he posted are included which also merit analysis.

Code and/or theme the social media data with accompanying analytic memos framed by one of the following recommended research questions:

* What does it mean to become physically disabled?
* What is the trajectory of becoming physically disabled?
* In what ways does social media communicate a user’s experiences?

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**November 25, 2019 [PRIVATE MESSAGE]**

I will shower if I can, but the house will be as is. I’m still having a lot of.pain.

**December 4, 2019** **[FRIENDS POST]**

If my back doesn’t get better soon I won’t be able to get out of bed.

**December 11, 2019 [FRIENDS POST]**

My back is a bit worse again this evening. Very difficult to sit upright. Sadly, the muscle relaxer is not fully covered by my insurance. No groceries for a couple of weeks. Keep on praying God will provide!

**December 17, 2019 [PRIVATE MESSAGE]**

I’ve had a rough day today. I get back spasms sitting up in my chair, so I may be in bed again. I hope I can clean myself and the bathroom up tonight.

**December 25, 2019 [PRIVATE MESSAGE]**

Not exactly pain free nor stress fee, but I’m coping.

**December 28, 2019 [PRIVATE MESSAGE]**

My arms and legs are beginning to feel like jelly. Plus, I’m getting low on the courage, will power, and determination required to get me up on my feet to use the bathroom. Just getting it off my chest. Sometimes it helps just to talk about it.

**December 29, 2019 [PRIVATE MESSAGE]**

It’s bad tonight. I didn’t think I was going to get up from the bed at all just now. Sitting in the living I can only tolerate for about an hour. By then My back has stiffened up to where I can barely stand up...

**December 30, 2019 [FRIENDS POST]**

I think maybe I need to call soon for medical assistance. It took me half an hour and a lot of anger and cussing and tears to get up out of bed this time. I just want to lie here. The cat litter hasn’t been scooped out for two days. I’m getting too shaky and lightheaded to make it to the kitchen. I have a call into the doctor about getting Home Health Services, but the staff there is notoriously slow about returning calls. I just want to be able to get up and take care of myself.

**December 31, 2019 [PRIVATE MESSAGE]**

. . . the [cat] litter needs scooped out. It was last done Saturday. I’ve tried repeatedly, but I can’’t do it. I hate to ask, but could you come to do it please?

**January 2, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

The physical therapist was here for about 2 hours this afternoon. We had a nice chat as I answered about a million questions about my physical ailments and living situation, and then gave a few simple exercises I can do lying in bed. Nothing strenuous or painful. She feels my frequent trips to the bathroom are enough standing and walking for now, and not to overdo anything. She will request a social worker be sent next week.

**January 3, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

PRAYERS PLEASE!!!!!

**January 4, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

I called Home Health this morning to try to get more help. The nurse said there’s not much more they can do without me calling 911 to be taken to the emergency room. I don’t need hospital care, just some help getting out of bed.

**January 4, 2020 [PRIVATE MESSAGE]**

[A friend] is gifting me a bed assist bar from Amazon and should arrive tomorrow. It won’t be delivered till Tuesday. So much for Amazon’s,delivery promises.

**January 4, 2020 [PRIVATE MESSAGE]**

911 is coming now.

**January 5, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

I was brought to the hospital by ambulance last night after I nearly slid off the bed onto the floor trying to get up. Had xrays and ct scan done. Definitely arthritis, but they are running more tests. Will probably go to rehab from here. Your continuing prayers are appreciated!

**January 7, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

Well, I was just informed that hospital copays are due up front. So far I owe them $1000 that I don’t have.

**January 8, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

Yet another delay in diagnosing my joint issues. The imaging facility they were sending me to today only has technicians, not medical personnel. They can’t take responsibility for moving me from the gurney. I would have to stand and walk on my own. Let’s keep praying.

**January 10, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

After spending a week in the hospital while they speculated and argued the reason for my extreme hip and back pain, the Wise Ones have determined that it is indeed severe arthritis after all. Now that they have reached this consensus, they are prepared to release me as early as tomorrow. However, they neglected to address the issue of me not having any caretaker at home. So now the subject of rehab or home care has to be hashed out. Keep praying, please!

**January 12, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

I am now at Monte Vista [acute care and rehabilitation center]. So far okay, just different. Thankfully I have a private room. It’s a narrow bed with no side rails. I have to get approval from the physical therapist tomorrow for that. I’m feeling a bit insecure for now. So far they seem nice, but difficult to understand. I finally remembered to get the wifi password, but forgot to have my charger cords plugged in. They said a snack was on irs way when I was settled in, but that never came. Luckily I ate a light dinner at 4:30.

**January 15, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

*Michael is feeling down.*

Physical therapy is stalled because of my low blood pressure. So frustrating!

**January 16, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

*Michael is feeling hopeful.*

My blood pressure has normalized today, so I was able to begin physical therapy in the gym. I was able to walk several feet using the bars for support. The therapists and I were all pleased with my first day.

**January 24, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

I’ve pretty much decided if there is no other option then I will have to go home. It is what it is.

**January 27, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

I will be discharged from rehab on Thursday, despite the fact the only progress I’ve made is standing and sitting and slowly walking across the room with a walker. I can barely lift my feet and I get dizzy, weak, and out of breath. Today I was nauseous and barely able to move by the time I got back in bed. There are dozens of day to day actions I can’t perform yet.

**January 27, 2020 [PRIVATE MESSAGE]**

Checkout will be Thursday between 10;00 and 11:00 AM.They will supply transport but want someone at home to let me in and get me settled. I opted for the wheelchair instead of a walker. [The hospital] won’t supply both, nor the raised toilet seat or shower seat. The hospital bed is subject to acceptable justification and requires a copay.

**January 28, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

My physical therapy summed up: “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

**January 30, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

*Michael Is feeling hopeful.*

Today’s the day! I’m all set to go home, ready or not. I will be continuing my convalescence at home. Looking forward to seeing my [cats] Smokey and Midnight. Thanks again for all your continuing prayers!

**January 30, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

I’m right back where I was those last few days before I called 911. Nothing’s changed. I am having trouble getting out of bed again because of lower back pain I had gotten rid of using the hospital beds.

**January 31, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

*Michael is feeling disappointed.*

Well, my first day home and I fell in the bathroom. Had to call 911. I am in the hospital again with bruised ribs, in addition to lower back and hip pain. They are monitoring my heart as a possible cause of my extreme dizzyness when I sit up or stand.

**February 1, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

*Michael is feeling optimistic.*

Good news! They can’t find anything wrong with my heart, so my dizzy spells are probably a combination of lesser factors causing low blood pressure, rapid heart rate, and gasping for air. Bottom line I am suffering from “therapius interruptus.” I am getting some physical therapy here and the PT is going to recommend I be returned to Monte Vista to complete the work they started.

**February 4, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

I have been sent back to Monte Vista for additional rehab. It is not a private room, which is less than ideal for me. Also, the bed in here has no side rails until I request them tomorrow, and the bed is so narrow I barely fit. I could swear my old room was empty when we passed it coming in. I am on a wait list.

**February 5, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

*Michael is feeling puzzled.*

My roommate here has a lot of the same body pain I started out with last month. His issue turned out to be the blood infection they were looking for in me last month. It is attacking various joints and his spine. Another thing we have in common is that many are praying for us and the feeling we are going through this for spiritual as well as physical reasons.

**February 6, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

Turns out that the “doctor” I have issues with is a P.A., not the primary doctor she led me to believe she was. I’ve put a request in to see my case worker to go over my options again.

**February 6, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

I was just told that as of today I am being charged $160/day to stay here.

**February 7, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

Hospice and a placement rep were here to discuss my placement. My only option seems to be a group home, which is not the setting I had hoped for. The anticipated cost is roughly $1800 a month, which includes room, board, utilities, cable, etc. A private room is not guaranteed.

**February 8, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

*Michael is feeling angry.*

I am going to be sent home again. I can’t be placed until after the first of the month at the earliest. The hospice that was here yesterday has decided to turn me down, so another one is coming to interview me. If I am well enough to be sent home now, why do I need care later?

**February 8, 2020 [PRIVATE MESSAGE]**

I am going to be sent home again. T. . . . Monte Vista wants me out of here and I can’t get placed anywhere till after the first of the month. The hospice agency has decided to turn me down, so I have been referred to another hospice agency. I am going to be sent home again until if and when a place can be found for me. . . . Monte Vista hasnot talked to me yet. I got my info from the placement worker

**February 13, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

Going home tomorrow…again. Pray I have more success this time.

**February 14, 2020 - GoFundMe [FRIENDS POST]**

*Michael is feeling hopeful.*

Sorry to ask again, but I need help with recent medical bills, including hospitalization, rehab, and home medical equipment!

**February 17, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

*Michael is feeling depressed.*

As I feared, after 3 days at home I am right back where I started in the days before my first 911 call Jan 4th. My hips hurt so bad I can barely sit up to get out of bed. The pain is almost unbearable.

**February 17, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

The physical therapist came by today. She is doing everything she can to find a hospital bed and other resources to help me, but she has had no luck, either. I don’t qualify and will have to buy a bed on top of the hospital and rehab bills I have incurred. Please consider donating to my fund if possible.

**February 17, 2020 [PRIVATE MESSAGE]**

I’m going to need grab bars for that long wall in the bathroom. I’m told the fire dept can come install them. Probably two of them at about 20" each. I’ve had a very bad day again, just like the first time before I went to hospital. The PT was here today when I was falling apart. She agrees the bed is most likely the source of my pain. She called her contacts and they all said I didn’t meet the requirements to get a hospital bed. . . . I also will have to ask you to take 2 prescriptions to be filled, plus a few over the counter items. . . . Thank you for being patient with me.

**February 19, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

*Michael is feeling angry.*

I am home again after a third trip to the ER via ambulance. This time the doctor refused to treat me and sent me home in the same condition I had arrived, citing this as a chronic condition that must be resolved through other agencies. That removes all hope of getting help I need now, not days weeks, or months from now.



**February 27, 2020 – GoFundMe [FRIENDS POST]**

Sorry to bother you again, but the bills are piling up and I still need a hospital bed.

**February 27, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

I can’t get out of bed again. The pain is too severe to sit up, stand, or walk.

**February 28, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

I am in the hospital again! Your continuing prayers and donations are appreciated. The bills continue to mount up.

**February 29, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

What to do when everyone around you is pressuring you to pack it all in and go into a nursing home? This is one of the biggest decisions I’ve ever had to make. I need more time to try to overcome this new disability before I’m ready to give up my whole world and put myself into a system I will never be able to leave once that commitment is made.

Prayers and thoughts would be appreciated. Message me with your thoughts and advice. Thanks for listening.



**March 1, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

I am back in Monte Vista for more physical therapy. While here I will actively seek placement in a long-term care facility. If and when I receive a state subsidy I hope to move to a more preferable environment. Yes, this means giving up my apartment and practically everything else. [My friend] will handle the arrangements and is also adopting my two cats.

Your continuing prayers are greatly appreciated as always.

**March 3, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

Preliminary checking does not bode well for me to quickly get into a place I can afford.

**March 5, 2020 - GoFundMe [FRIENDS POST]**

I may have found a group home I can get into in [the city], but it will take 90% of my monthly income. In the meantime, the hospital, rehab, medical transport bills, and other expenses continue to roll in. The funding is slow to come in. I appreciate any and all contributions to clear these bills. Thank you.

**March 6, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

Moving to an assisted living facility in [a suburb] tomorrow. Private room with a hospital bed (Insurance came through this time, but there is a monthly copay.) I bring my own TV but the cable will be provided. I also will have to supply certain personal care supplies out of my meager monthly allowance.

I am fortunate that this place became available today. Please pray for me as I make this overwhelming transition in my life.

**March 6, 2020 [PRIVATE MESSAGE]**

I will be moving to [a suburb] after all. Tomorrow I will be transferred to Heartland Assisted Living at [address]. It is housed in a former convent. I will have a private room and a hospital bed will be delivered Monday, which will require a copay, if they don’t have one available. No private baths, though. . . . I will need my TV, fan, wheelchair, walker and fan to start, plus nightshirt, shorts, tshirts, some underwear, and meds to start when you have time. There are also 2 meds waiting for pickup at the Walgreen’s at [address].

**March 10, 2020 – GoFundMe [FRIENDS POST]**

At this point only 20% of my GoFundMe goal has been raised, and that is rapidly depleting as more and more bills and the need to purchase personal care items not supplied by this facility continue to build. Please consider donating as you are able. Future ongoing needed supplies can also be purchased from my wish list at Amazon.com for those who would prefer to donate specific items rather than transfer funds. Again, my thanks to those who support my struggle, whether financially or prayerfully.

https://www.gofundme.com/...



**March 10, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

For anyone wishing to help me with supplies from Amazon, here is my wish list. Various quantities and prices. If you prefer to shop around for better prices, just note the sizes and quality in the description. There are other suppliers such as walmart.com.

https://www.amazon.com...

**March 10, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

And again I have to ask for your help.

Some have expressed an interest in maybe helping occasionally by sending personal care items not provided by this facility. I have to purchase these for myself out of the meager allowance they let me keep. As always, thank you for your support.

https://amazon.com...

Also, it looks as though I will need to purchase a hospital bed after all. The one I have here is totally inadequate for my needs. For this I will need more donations to my fund. The previous donations were used to secure my place here and purchase the supplies I needed immediately.

https://gofundme.com...

**March 11, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

By golly, the insurance company came through. A new hospital bed will be delivered. Thank you, Lord!

**March 12 [FRIENDS POST]**

Not only am I getting a bigger bed, they are setting it up in a bigger room!

**March 19, 2020 – GoFundMe [FRIENDS POST]**

If you know anyone who might want to help pay my mounting bills for medical care and related supplies, please encourage them to do so. So far we have reached 25% of the goal of $5,000. Thanks again to all the donors and the many who are praying for me. The transition to assisted living so far has been trying and difficult.

**April 12, 2020 – GoFundMe [FRIENDS POST]**

I hate to bring this up again. Early donations for medical expenses have been used and no more have come in, though the bills continue to accumulate. I just received a $300 bill from the new pharmacy for prescriptions, which came as quite a shock since I have not had any copays with the previous endorsed supplier. There are also about $4000 in hospital and rehab bills, plus hundreds for 911 responses and ambulance transports. Unrelated bills have been ignored since everything I have is going to pay the assisted living facility. Thanks to those who have contributed!

**April 19, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

It’s 4:45 AM and my crazy roommate is already up and about, loudly begging the attendant repeatedly for coffee. It’s his morning ritual. The attendant told him 15 minutes ago to stay in bed, that it’s too early to get up. They usually don’t make coffee till the cook comes in at 6:00. It’s 5:00 and he is still begging for coffee. I don’t know why they don’t just make a pot for him. Maybe they restrict his caffeine intake. When the attendants start jokingly giving me a hard time, I threaten to start begging like [my roommate].

**April 20, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

What is the point of being in assisted living if you can’t get assistance when you need it? I’m getting fed up with being ignored and neglected for hours at a time.

**April 21, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

The owner should be more concerned about the care and well-being of the residents than the little bit of clutter on my tray. I had been lying here for over an hour and a half without a response to my call when she came in and started fussing about the personal stuff on my tray. She even took away an extra water bottle I use for soda and a pen because she found two there.

**April 22, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

Last day of physical therapy. I don’t think I’ve progressed as much as I need to. I still can’t stand or transfer to the wheelchair without assistance.

**May 4, 2020 – GoFundMe [FRIENDS POST]**

Sorry to be a nuisance, but funds are low and creditors are hounding me for medical bills. Please pray and thanks for your donations.

**May 22, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

Since I had to switch doctors and that put me in a different network, Home Health is taking away my hospital bed and wheelchair. I will have to try to get them from this other network. In the meantime my personal care supplies are running out before payday.

**June 10, 2020 – GoFund Me [FRIENDS POST]**

Donations of any amount are needed to replenish personel aupplies, which are running low for the month of June. I have still not secured any state or hospice funding to help. In addition, the bed and wheelchair from Home Care are to be returned due to a switch in my medical network. The new network will replace them, but at a higher monthly copays. Thanks for your help.

**June 10, 2020 [FRIENDS POST]**

*Michael shared a memory.*

One year later and I am now bed-ridden in an assisted living facility.

**June 10, 2019 [FRIENDS POST]**

I’ve been having a lot of back spasms lately, and trouble walking, but otherwise both my primary doctor and oncologist say I’m doing well. I like to say I’m in pretty good shape for the shape I’m in.