

Practical Solutions for Americans' true affordability concerns

Americans are concerned about the rising cost of health care and the COVID-19 pandemic – and the resulting economic pain has only heightened this anxiety, especially for the nation's sickest, who often shoulder more of the burden. Right now, Americans want practical solutions to help lower their health care costs and save money at the pharmacy counter.

Americans are worried about health care costs

- Nearly **one-in-five (18%) U.S. adults** report that if they needed access to quality health care today, they would be unable to pay for it.ⁱ
- Cost remains a barrier even for Americans with insurance – **80% reported** that the amount they pay for health care seems to be going up every year.ⁱⁱ
- **More than 70% of voters struggle** with the unpredictability of out-of-pocket costs and feel like insurance companies are nickel-and-diming them.ⁱⁱ

Solutions Americans Support

- **84% of voters support** requiring health insurance companies to be more transparent about what drugs are covered and what patients will pay out-of-pocket for prescription medicines.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **81% of voters want more predictability** in how much they will pay for things like prescription medicines every month, instead of having costs fluctuate.ⁱⁱⁱ

Out-of-pocket costs are rising – especially for the sickest Americans

- **43% of U.S. adults had out-of-pocket costs** (not including premiums) that equaled 10% of their household income,^{iv} with high-need patients paying more than twice as much out-of-pocket than those without chronic conditions.^v
- Adults with a **deductible of \$1,000 per year or more has doubled** in the last year.^{vi}
- The amount commercial health plans require patients to pay annually for their brand medicines has **increased by 50% or more since 2015** for some conditions like HIV.^{viii}

Solutions Americans Support

- **78% of Americans support placing a cap on the amount health insurers** can make patients pay for deductibles, copays and other out-of-pocket costs.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **79% of voters support giving insurers more incentives** to keep costs manageable for people who are sick and take prescription medicines.ⁱⁱⁱ

Negotiated discounts aren't being passed on to patients

- The share of total spending on brand medicines that biopharmaceutical companies retain has been steadily declining as rebates and discounts have increased. Meanwhile, the amount hospitals, pharmacies and other health care providers retain on the sale of brand medicines nearly doubled between 2013 and 2018, **increasing from \$24.7 billion to \$48.6 billion.**^{vii}

Solutions Americans Support

- **85% of Americans support** requiring health insurance companies to pass along to patients more of the discounts on prescription medicines they negotiate with pharmaceutical companies.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **78% of voters support requiring hospitals to use the discounts** they receive on prescription medicines to help patients in need instead of using those discounts for other purposes.ⁱⁱⁱ

Let's fix what's broken and lower costs for patients.

The biopharmaceutical industry is prepared to be part of the solution to deliver a stronger, more resilient, affordable and equitable health care system for all. Learn more about our solutions [here](#).

i. Witters, D. In U.S., An Estimated 46 Million Cannot Afford Needed Care. Gallup. 31 Mar 2021.
ii. Consumers for Quality Care. THE COVID EFFECT: Consumer Expectations for Health Care Coverage, Cost and Quality in 2021.
iii. May 2021 Morning Consult/PhRMA Tracking Poll.
iv. Collins SR, Gunja MZ, Aboulafia, GN. U.S. Health Insurance Coverage in 2020: A Looming Crisis in Affordability. The Commonwealth Fund. 19 Aug 2020.

v. Hayes SL, et al. High-Need, High-Cost Patients: Who Are They and How Do They Use Health Care? The Commonwealth Fund. 29 Aug 2016.
vi. Flied SA, Zhu B. Catastrophic Out-of-Pocket Health Care Costs: A Problem Mainly for Middle-Income Americans with Employer Coverage. The Commonwealth Fund. 17 Apr 2020.
vii. IQVIA/PhRMA. Faced with High Cost Sharing for Brand Medicines, Commercially Insured Patients with Chronic Conditions Increasingly Use Manufacturer Cost-Sharing Assistance Data Analysis. 29 Jan 2021.
viii. Berkeley Research Group. Revisiting the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain: 2013-2018. 9 Jan 2020.