

# The Burden of High Drug Prices



## 82% of American households

have **at least one** prescription medication.



## Nearly 1 in 5 households

with at least one prescription are “concerned” or “extremely concerned” that they will be unable to pay for needed prescriptions.

## 11% of households

were unable to pay for a prescription drug last year because they didn’t have money to pay for it.

Lowering the cost of drugs and health insurance premiums are top priorities for U.S. adults, with **two-thirds reporting that these should be either “high priority” or the “highest priority”** for the Biden administration.

	Democrat	Independent	Republican
LOWER COST OF DRUGS	71%	66%	66%
LOWER HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS	76%	65%	61%
REDUCE UNINSURED RATE	88%	53%	28%

Many Americans in households with at least one prescription are struggling to pay for the medications they need.

In a time of record unemployment, **those who have lost their jobs are struggling the most** to pay for their medications.

% Unable to pay for prescription drugs

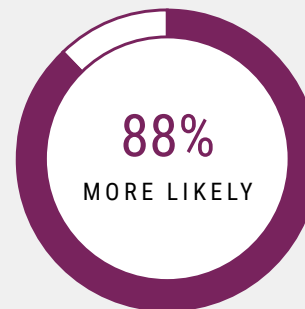
EMPLOYED FULL TIME



EMPLOYED PART TIME



UNEMPLOYED/LAID OFF



Adults of color from non-expansion states are **88% more likely to suffer 12-month medication insecurity** than are adults of color from expansion states.

% Unable to pay for prescription drugs

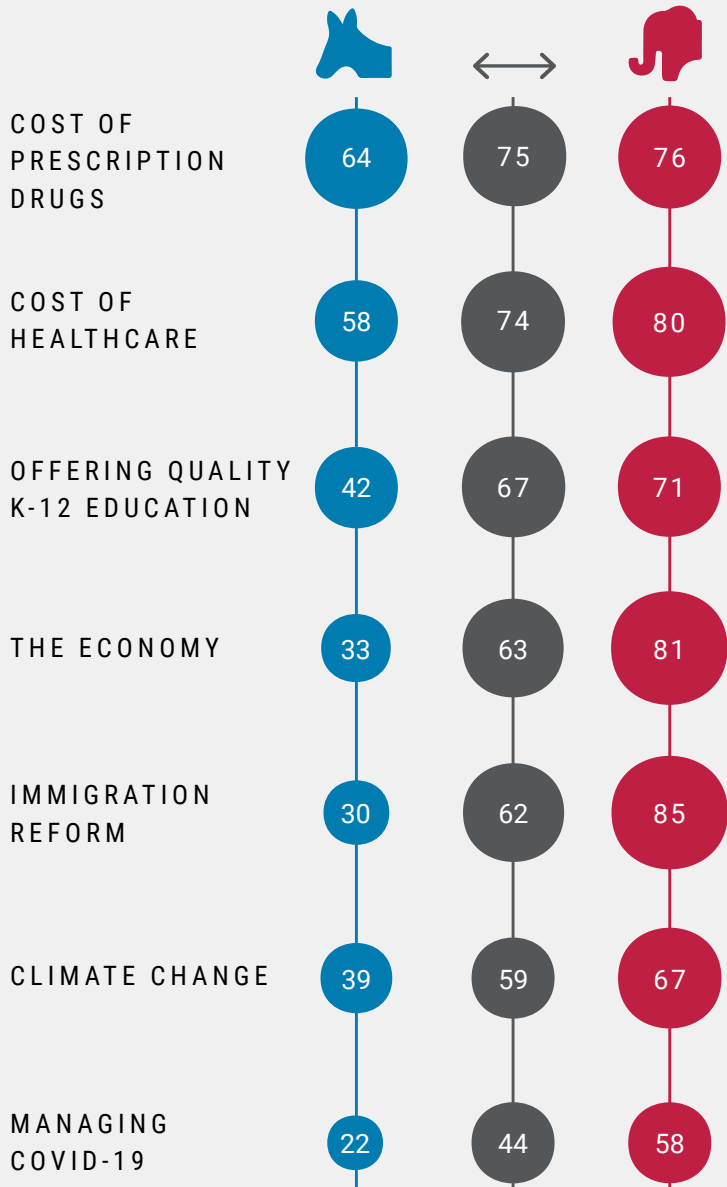
	Adults of Color	White adults
IN STATES THAT HAVE EXPANDED MEDICAID	8%	10%
IN STATES THAT HAVE NOT EXPANDED MEDICAID	15%	13%

Medicaid expansion as of Jan. 1, 2020

# Americans Agree:

Most Americans believe the country is headed in the wrong direction on healthcare and drug costs.

(% Wrong direction)

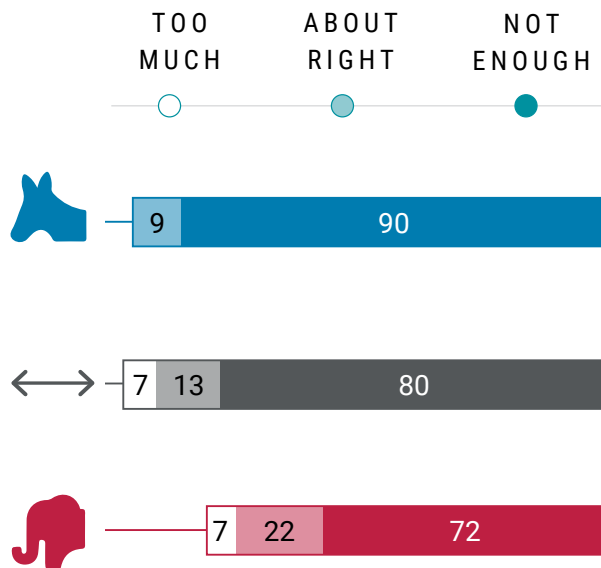


Many adults in households with at least one prescription are skipping pills and asking for generic medication to save money.

(% Have done in last 12 months)



Most Americans believe the government is not doing enough to ensure prescription drugs are affordable.



West Health is a family of nonprofit and nonpartisan organizations focused on lowering healthcare costs to enable seniors to successfully age in place with access to high-quality, affordable health and support services that preserve and protect their dignity, quality of life and independence. For over 80 years, Gallup has used research and analytics to form mission-driven partnerships to solve the pressing problems facing humankind. In 2018, as the healthcare-cost crisis loomed larger, West Health partnered with Gallup to amplify West Health's mission and become a leading voice in the conversation.

West Health and Gallup's ongoing work documents the healthcare crisis through the COVID-19 pandemic, giving voice to the public's concerns and informing policymaking. The findings show clear evidence of the concern Americans have about healthcare costs, while highlighting how high prices disproportionately affect underserved racial and socioeconomic groups. West Health and Gallup will continue to shed light on solutions that Americans support, guiding the way toward long-needed action.