The Burden of High Drug Prices

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.

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.

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.

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Americans Agree:
Most Americans believe the country is headed in the wrong direction on healthcare and drug costs. (% Wrong direction)

- **COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**
  - Black adults: 64
  - Hispanic adults: 58
  - White adults: 58

- **COST OF HEALTHCARE**
  - Black adults: 75
  - Hispanic adults: 74
  - White adults: 75

- **OFFERING QUALITY K-12 EDUCATION**
  - Black adults: 67
  - Hispanic adults: 67
  - White adults: 67

- **THE ECONOMY**
  - Black adults: 63
  - Hispanic adults: 62
  - White adults: 62

- **IMMIGRATION REFORM**
  - Black adults: 81
  - Hispanic adults: 85
  - White adults: 85

- **CLIMATE CHANGE**
  - Black adults: 59
  - Hispanic adults: 59
  - White adults: 59

- **MANAGING COVID-19**
  - Black adults: 44
  - Hispanic adults: 44
  - White adults: 44

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)

- **ASKED FOR GENERICS**
  - Black adults: 36%
  - Hispanic adults: 47%
  - White adults: 48%

- **SKIPPED PILLS**
  - Black adults: 10%
  - Hispanic adults: 14%
  - White adults: 11%

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.