

# The Case for Lower Drug Prices for All Americans



Two-thirds of American adults are currently using **one or more prescription** medications.

Adults of all ages, races and political affiliations are impacted by high drug costs, regardless of insurance type.

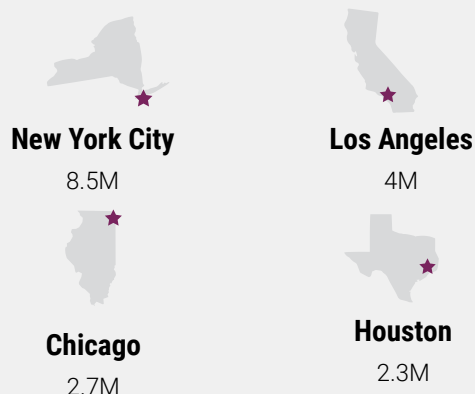


Too many Americans cannot pay for their drugs, which poses a serious risk to their health.

An estimated **18 million U.S. adults** (7%) were **unable to pay for prescribed medicine** in the past three months, including about 15.5 million adults under age 65 and 2.3 million seniors.

That's **more than** the entire population of the four largest cities in the United States.

Some Americans are more likely to be unable to pay for prescribed medicine because they did not have enough money to pay for it:



2X

Adults under 65 are **twice as likely** as the nation's seniors (65+)

Adults with certain **chronic conditions** such as diabetes and COPD, and those who are immune compromised, are **twice as likely** as those without chronic conditions

The number of adults unable to pay for prescribed medicine is **on the rise**.

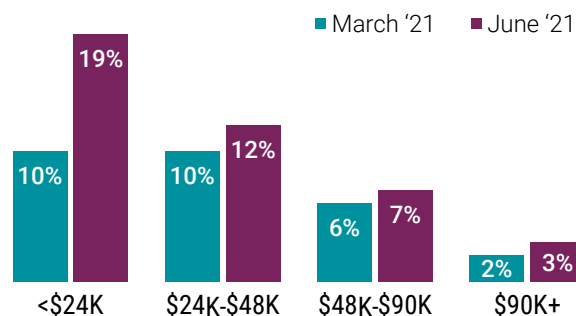
**1 in 2 Americans** with commercial insurance is worried that the cost of prescription drugs will keep rising **until they are unable to afford them**.



Adults under 65 with at least one prescription are **twice as likely** as those 65 or older to report they or a family member **skipped a pill** to save money.

The burden for households under \$24K has **doubled\*** since March.

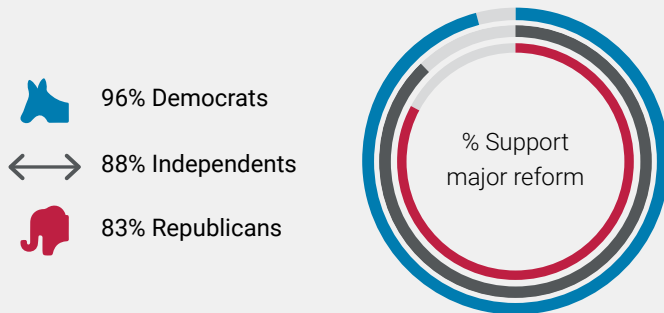
\*Statistically Significant (p<.05)



# Americans across political parties want the government to take action in controlling drug costs.



**82%** of Americans report the government is **not doing enough** to ensure prescription drugs are affordable.

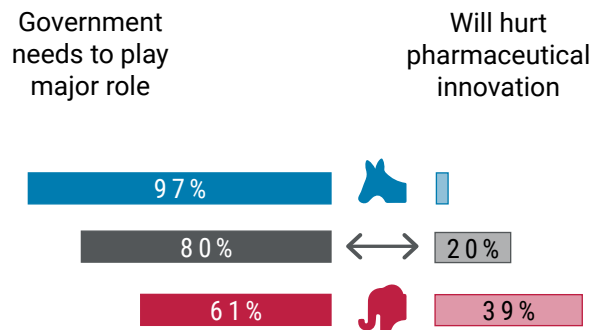


**90%** of Americans think drug pricing needs to undergo major reform to control costs.

Only 10% think drug pricing is fair considering the amount it costs companies to develop and give access to drugs they produce.



**By a 4-to-1 margin**, Americans think the government needs to play a major role in negotiating drug prices for Medicare in order to control costs, showing little concern that lower prices will mean less competition and innovation.



*Which of the following comes closest to your view: The government needs to play a major role in negotiating prescription drug prices for Medicare in order to control costs or allowing the government to negotiate drug prices for Medicare will hurt pharmaceutical competition and innovation.*

Source: West Health-Gallup U.S. Healthcare Study of U.S. adults (18+) conducted by web via the Gallup Panel from Jan. 25-31, 2021 (n=4,098), March 15-21, 2021 (n=3,905), April 19-25, 2021 (n=3,731), and June 14-20, 2021 (n=4,843).

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.