

THE TRUE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Why New Jersey needs a Prescription Drug Affordability Board

PATIENTS



More and more New Jerseyans are forced to choose between prescription drugs and other necessities, like rent and groceries, and others are forced to go without their medications.



49% of New Jerseyans are worried about affording the cost of prescription drugs.

1 in 5 adult residents do not fill a prescription, cut pills in half, or skip a dose due to drug affordability.¹

They are people like:

Genevieve, 27, diagnosed with two autoimmune diseases, struggles daily to afford her prescriptions even with insurance. One of her treatments costs **\$20,000 per dose** and **\$120,000 per year**.



Erika, 48, a cancer survivor diagnosed with diabetes, asthma, and fibromyalgia struggles to pay for her medications which cost her **\$24,000 a year**. At times she has to skip doses and max out her credit cards.

PREMIUMS



The rising costs of prescription drugs are a major contributor to overall healthcare expenditures and result in higher premiums.



Prescription drugs are the largest single expense of consumer premium dollars.²

23%

According to AHIP's 2018 report, **23%** of premium dollars are spent on prescription drugs on the independent market.²

PUBLIC HEALTH/TAXPAYERS



The skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs threaten the public health of New Jerseyans.



43% of New Jerseyans have delayed or forgone health care due to cost. Of that population, **14%** did not fill a prescription and **14%** cut pills in half or skipped doses of medicine.



In the first 6 months of 2020, pharmaceutical companies have already **raised prices** on **245 drugs**, **75%** pertain³ directly to COVID-19.



Medicaid covers 1.7 million New Jerseyans and enrollment is on the rise. Prescription drugs make up **11%** of Medicaid expenditures and that is expected to **increase to 13%** in 2021.⁴

NEW JERSEYANS WANT ACTION

New Jersey Residents surveyed want government to act to address high health care costs (they believe are) caused by unfair prices charged by powerful industry stakeholders.

56% Believe the government should work on addressing high healthcare costs, including prescription drugs¹

72% Believe health care costs are so high because drug companies charge too much money¹

88% Across party lines are in favor of Prescription Drug Affordability Boards¹

Join NJ for Affordable Drugs Campaign Today! NJForAffordableDrugs.com

Endnotes: 1) Healthcare Value Hub at Altarum [July 2020 Survey](#). 2) AHIP [2018 Survey](#). 3) Patients For Affordable Drugs Now, [2020 Report](#). 4) Gov. Murphy's [2021 Budget](#)