

What Should Be Done About the High Cost of Prescription Drugs?

Conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago
With funding from The West Health Institute

Interviews: 8/16-8/20/2018

1,002 adults

Margin of error: +/- 4.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

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Q81. How important are each of the following issues to you personally?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 8/16-20/2018	Not at all /Slightly important NET	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Extremely /Very important NET	Very important	Extremely important	DK	SKP/ REF
The costs of healthcare	8	3	5	14	78	34	44	-	*
Jobs and the economy	7	1	6	17	76	44	32	*	*
National security	8	1	7	21	71	36	35	*	*
Environment	11	3	8	25	63	34	29	*	1
Immigration	17	4	13	32	51	31	20	*	1
Trade	20	5	16	41	38	28	10	*	1

N=1,002

Q82. How concerned are you about the cost of prescription drugs?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Extremely/Very concerned NET	65
Extremely concerned	34
Very concerned	31
Moderately concerned	24
Not concerned at all/Not very concerned NET	11
Not very concerned	8
Not concerned at all	3
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N=

1,002

What Should Be Done About the High Cost of Prescription Drugs?

Q83. Do you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of the way each of the following is handling prescription drug costs?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

NORC 8/16-20/2018	Strongly/ Somewhat approve NET	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither approve nor disapprove	Strongly/ Somewhat disapprove NET	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
President Donald Trump	23	11	12	29	46	14	33	1	1
The Democrats in Congress	20	5	15	35	43	19	24	2	1
The Republicans in Congress	16	4	12	32	50	21	28	2	1

N=1,002

Q84. Do you think the cost of prescription drugs in this country is reasonable, unreasonable, or neither?

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Very/Somewhat reasonable NET	10
Very reasonable	2
Somewhat reasonable	8
Neither reasonable or unreasonable	12
Very/Somewhat unreasonable NET	77
Somewhat unreasonable	34
Very unreasonable	44
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N=

1,002

What Should Be Done About the High Cost of Prescription Drugs?

Q85. Do you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose each of the following in order to reduce the cost of prescription drugs?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

NORC 8/16-20/2018	Strongly/ Somewhat support NET	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Strongly/ Somewhat oppose NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	SKP/ REF
Allowing Medicare to directly negotiate with drug companies to get lower prices on prescription drugs	82	54	29	14	4	2	1	*	*
Allowing more lower-cost generic prescription drugs to compete with the equivalent high-cost brand name prescription drugs	82	59	23	12	4	2	3	1	1
Requiring drug companies to release information to the public on how they set their drug prices	80	52	28	14	5	3	2	*	1
Allowing Americans to buy prescription drugs from Canada	65	40	25	22	12	6	5	*	1
Eliminating prescription drug advertisements	52	33	20	31	16	10	6	*	1
Requiring drug companies to set the price for a drug based on how well it works for patients	31	13	18	31	36	16	20	1	1

N=1,002

What Should Be Done About the High Cost of Prescription Drugs?

Q86. Do you think lowering the cost of prescription drugs should be a top priority, an important but not a top priority, not too important, or not at all important for the candidates running for Congress in your state this year?

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Top priority/An important but not a top priority NET	88
Top priority	30
An important but not a top priority	58
Not at all/Not too important NET	12
Not too important	9
Not at all important	3
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,002

Q87. How important is it for candidates running for Congress to support allowing Medicare to negotiate directly with drug companies to lower prescription drug prices?

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Not all/Slightly important NET	22
Not at all important	3
Slightly important	20
Moderately important	29
Extremely/Very important NET	48
Very important	29
Extremely Important	19
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,002

What Should Be Done About the High Cost of Prescription Drugs?

Q88. Would a Congressional candidate’s commitment to allowing Medicare to negotiate directly with drug companies to get lower prices on prescription drugs make you more likely to vote for them, not make any difference, or less likely to vote for them?

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
A lot/Somewhat more likely NET	57
A lot more likely	14
Somewhat more likely	43
No difference	37
A lot/Somewhat less likely NET	5
Somewhat less likely	3
A lot less likely	2
DON’T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,002

Q89. How important is it for President Trump to work toward allowing Medicare to negotiate directly with drug companies to lower prescription drug prices?

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Not at all/Slightly important NET	21
Not at all important	4
Slightly important	16
Moderately important	29
Extremely/Very important NET	50
Very important	28
Extremely Important	22
DON’T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,002

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Q90. Do you have any health insurance plan or program that helps you pay for prescription drugs, or not, or aren't you sure?

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Yes	79
No	14
Not sure	7
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,002</i>

Q91. Do you regularly take any prescription drugs, or not?

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Yes, take	59
No, do not take	40
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,002</i>

If yes in Q91

Q52. In the past 12 months, how often have you not filled a prescription or taken less than the prescribed dose of medicine because of the cost?

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
More than once	24
One time	10
Never	66
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>622</i>

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REG. Are you currently registered to vote at your address, or not?

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Yes	82
No	18
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,002</i>

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent or none of these?

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Democrat	33
Republican	27
Independent	24
None of these	15
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,002</i>

If Democrat in PID1

PIDa. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Strong Democrat	35
Moderate Democrat	65
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	<i>340</i>

If Republican in PID1

PIDb. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Strong Republican	39
Moderate Republican	61
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	<i>261</i>

What Should Be Done About the High Cost of Prescription Drugs?

If independent, none of these, or Don't Know/SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED in PID1
PIDi. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Lean Democrat	27
Lean Republican	28
Don't lean	44
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>401</i>

POLITICS. Combines PID1, PIDa, PIDb, and PIDi.

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Democrat NET	44
Strong Democrat	12
Moderate Democrat	22
Lean Democrat	11
Independent/None – Don't lean	18
Republican NET	38
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	16
Strong Republican	11
Unknown	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,002</i>

AGE

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
18-24	12
25-34	18
35-44	17
45-54	13
55-64	20
65-74	14
75+	6
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,002</i>

What Should Be Done About the High Cost of Prescription Drugs?

GENDER

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Male	48
Female	52

N=

1,002

RACE/ETHNICITY

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
White	63
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8

N=

1,002

MARITAL STATUS

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Married	48
Widowed	7
Divorced	11
Separated	2
Never married	23
Living with partner	9

N=

1,002

EDUCATION

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Less than a high school diploma	11
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	28
College graduate or above	33

N=

1,002

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INCOME

	NORC 8/16-20/2018
Under \$10,000	4
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	13
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	11
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	17
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	14
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	13
\$150,000 or more	9

N=

1,002

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago with funding from The West Health Institute. NORC at the University of Chicago and the West Health Institute collaborated on all aspects of the study design and reporting. Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between August 16 and 20, 2018, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,022 completed the survey—874 via the web and 128 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in English. The final stage completion rate is 18.1 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 28.0 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 86.1 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 4.4 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.2 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2018 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

For more information, email info@norc.org.