

November 6, 2019

## Gallup-West Health Topline Report

Fielding: September 16-30, 2019

### Original Survey Items, Responses, and Topline Findings

**Question 1** Has there been a time in the last 12 months when your household has been unable to pay for medicine or drugs that a doctor had prescribed for you because you didn't have enough money to pay for them?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
23%	77%	*

**Nearly one-quarter of U.S. adults — about 58 million people — have been unable to pay for prescribed medicine in the last 12 months.**

- Significant gender gap: 18% among men, compared with 28% among women.
- Non-white individuals suffer medication insecurity at twice the rate of white individuals (34% vs. 17%, respectively).
- Medication insecurity skyrockets to 42% among those with annual household incomes less than \$40,000.
- Democrats (28%) and Independents (23%) experience medication insecurity at greater rates than do Republicans (17%) on this measure.
- Twenty-eight percent of those under the age of 45 experience medication insecurity, but this is also true of 14% of seniors.

NOTE: \* = Less than 0.5%

**Question 2** Has there been a time in the last five years when a friend or family member passed away after not receiving treatment for their condition due to their inability to pay for it?

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
13%	86%	*

**One in eight American adults (13%) — or about 34 million people — know of at least one friend or family member in the last five years who died after not receiving treatment for their condition due to their inability to pay for it.**

- Nonwhite individuals (20%) are twice as likely as white individuals (10%) to know someone who had died following inability to afford treatment.
- Those under the age of 45 (17%) and those aged 45-64 (12%) are more likely to report knowing someone than are seniors (7%), consistent with medication insecurity generally.
- Nearly one-fifth (19%) of those with annual household incomes of under \$40,000 know someone who died after not receiving treatment.

**Question 3**

If you had a \$500 medical bill that you needed to pay today, from where would the money most likely come [RESPONSES READ IN RANDOM ORDER]?

<u>Source</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Funds from a checking or savings account that were <u>not</u> dedicated to being spent on different things	30%
Funds from a checking or savings account that were dedicated to being spent on different things	21%
A credit card	14%
A loan from a family member or friend	14%
A medical or health savings account	10%
A bank loan	3%
No opinion	7%

**Only 30% of U.S. adults would be able to pay a \$500 medical bill using funds that were not already dedicated to being spent on different things. Another 31% would need to use a credit card or a loan to pay for it.**

- Nearly half (48%) of those in households with less than \$40,000 in annual income would need to use a credit card or a loan to pay for the medical bill.

**Question 4**

Based on everything you have read and experienced, please indicate which of the following statements most closely align with your opinion regarding the cost of prescription drugs in the U.S.? [RESPONSES ROTATED: drug prices are usually much higher than what consumers should be paying for them, drug prices tend to be somewhat higher than what consumers should be paying for them, drug prices are about right, drug prices tend to be somewhat lower than what consumers should be paying for them, (or) drug prices are usually much lower than what consumers should be paying for them]

<u>Much higher</u>	<u>Somewhat higher</u>	<u>About right</u>	<u>Somewhat lower</u>	<u>Much lower</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
69%	20%	9%	1%	1%	2%

**The overwhelming majority (89%) of U.S. adults report that drug prices are “usually much higher” or “tend to be somewhat higher” than what consumers should be paying for them.**

- This sentiment holds across socioeconomic, race, party ID, region, and city vs. small town or rural distinctions.

**Question 5** Thinking of all political parties in the U.S., which party is least focused on lowering your healthcare costs? [OPEN-ENDED]

<u>Party</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Republican Party	49%
Democratic Party	28%
Libertarian Party	1%
Green Party	1%
Independent/Other (vol.)	2%
All the same (vol.)	4%
No opinion	16%

**In an open-ended question, close to half (49%) of U.S. adults report that the Republican Party is the least focused on lowering healthcare costs, compared with 28% who cite the Democratic Party.**

- Sentiment runs closely along party lines, with 60% of Republicans citing Democrats and 76% of Democrats citing Republicans. Among independents, Republicans are mentioned more than twice as often as Democrats (47% vs. 21%, respectively).
- Among those who approve of the job Donald Trump is doing as president, 53% cite Democrats. Among those who disapprove, 70% cite Republicans.
- Mentions of the Republican Party grow steadily along with education level, with just 38% of those with a high school education or less citing the Republicans, compared with 60% of college graduates and 64% of those with postgraduate education.

NOTE: (vol.) = volunteered response

**Question 6** How much progress has the Trump administration made to limit the rising cost of prescription drugs in the U.S. – a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

<u>A great deal</u>	<u>A fair amount</u>	<u>Not very much</u>	<u>None at all</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
7%	20%	33%	33%	7%

**Two-thirds (66%) of U.S. adults report that the Trump administration has made little to no progress on limiting the rising cost of prescription drugs, compared with just 7% who report that “a great deal” of progress has been made.**

- These sentiments also are heavily influenced by party identification. While 96% of Democrats report little to no progress, this drops to 66% among independents and 31% among Republicans.
- Fifty-six percent of those who approve of the job Donald Trump is doing as president report “a great deal” or “a fair amount” of progress, compared with just 8% of those who disapprove of his job performance.
- Thirty-two percent of white individuals report that “a great deal” or “a fair amount” of progress has been made, compared with 17% of nonwhite individuals.

**Question 7** Would you favor or oppose federal legislation that would lower the cost of prescription drugs but result in reduced profits for the pharmaceutical industry?

<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
85%	13%	2%

The large majority (85%) of U.S. adults favor legislation that would lower the cost of prescription drugs at the expense of profits for the pharmaceutical industry. This holds true regardless of education, income, employment status, marital status, race or age.

- Women (90%) are somewhat more supportive than are men (80%).
- Democrats (90%) are somewhat more supportive than are independents (85%) and Republicans (79%), although large majorities of support are found among individuals with all three political affiliations.

**Question 8** Which of the following best describes how influential a candidate's position on lowering drug costs will be to determine your vote in the 2020 elections? Is it the single most important issue, among the most important issues, mid-range in importance, among the least important issues, or the least important issue?

<u>Single most important</u>	<u>Among most important</u>	<u>Mid-range in importance</u>	<u>Among least important</u>	<u>Least important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
5%	30%	38%	17%	9%	1%

Over one-third (35%) of American adults consider lowering drug costs to be among the most important issues or the single most important in determining their vote in the 2020 elections, compared with 26% who report the issue to be among the least or the least important issue for their decision.

- Party identification substantially informs these positions, with 47% of Democrats and 37% of independents assigning high importance to drug costs, compared with just 18% of Republicans.
- Income also plays a significant role. Over half (52%) of those with annual household incomes less than \$40,000 place high importance on how lowering drug costs will influence their vote, compared with just 19% of those in households earning \$100,000 or more.
- Regionally, those living in the East are most likely to give drug costs the highest importance in determining their vote, while those in the West are least likely (41% vs. 29%, respectively).

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted September 16-30, 2019 with a random sample of – 1,099—adults, ages 18+, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. For results based on the entire sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error is  $\pm 3.7$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level for responses near 50% and  $\pm 2.0$  percentage points for responses near 10% or 90%. For most reported subgroups the margin of error will be closer to  $\pm 7$  and  $\pm 4$  percentage points, respectively.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample of national adults includes a minimum quota of 70% cellphone respondents and 30% landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas by time zone within region. Landline and cell phone telephone numbers are selected using random digit dial methods. Gallup obtained sample for this study from Dynata. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member has the next birthday.

Samples are weighted to correct for unequal selection probability, non-response, and double coverage of landline and cell users in the two sampling frames. They are also weighted to match the national demographics of gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, population density, and phone status (cell phone-only/landline only/both and cell phone mostly). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2018 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older U.S. population. Phone status targets are based on the January-June 2018 National Health Interview Survey. Population density targets are based on the 2010 census. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting.

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