



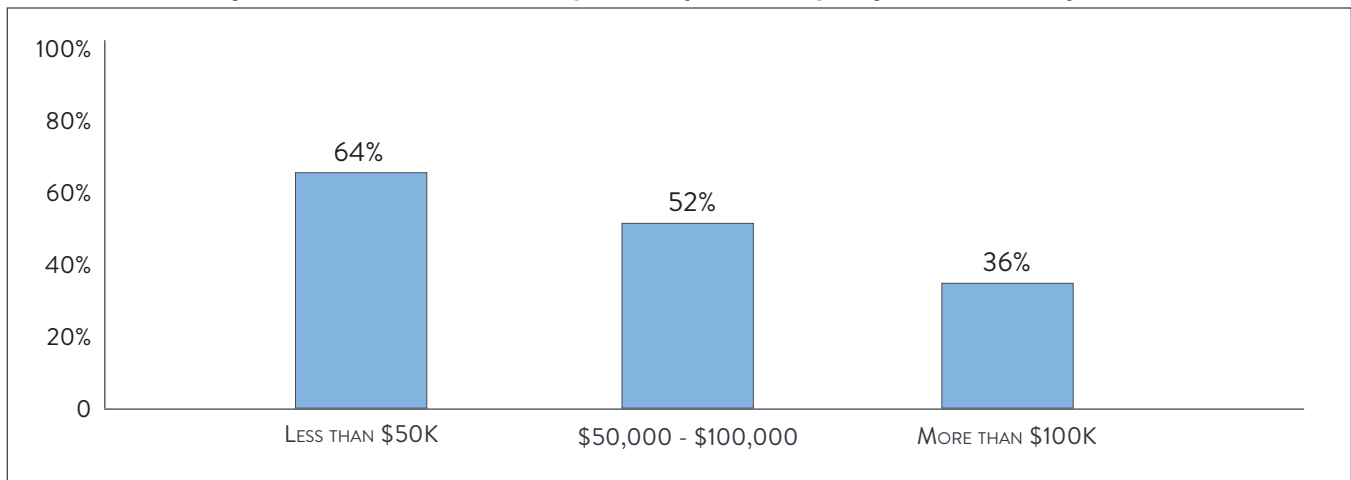
New Jersey Residents Worried about High Drug Costs—Support a Range of Government Solutions

According to a survey of 940 New Jersey adults, conducted from May 7, 2020 to May 12, 2020, residents are concerned about prescription drug costs and express a strong desire to enact solutions.

Almost half of all survey respondents (49%) reported being either “somewhat worried” or “very worried” about affording the cost of prescription drugs. Worry varied significantly by income group, with residents in households making less than \$50,000 per year being almost twice as worried as those in households making more than \$100,000 per year (see Figure 1).

Figure 1

Somewhat or Very Worried About Affording Prescription Drugs, by Income Group

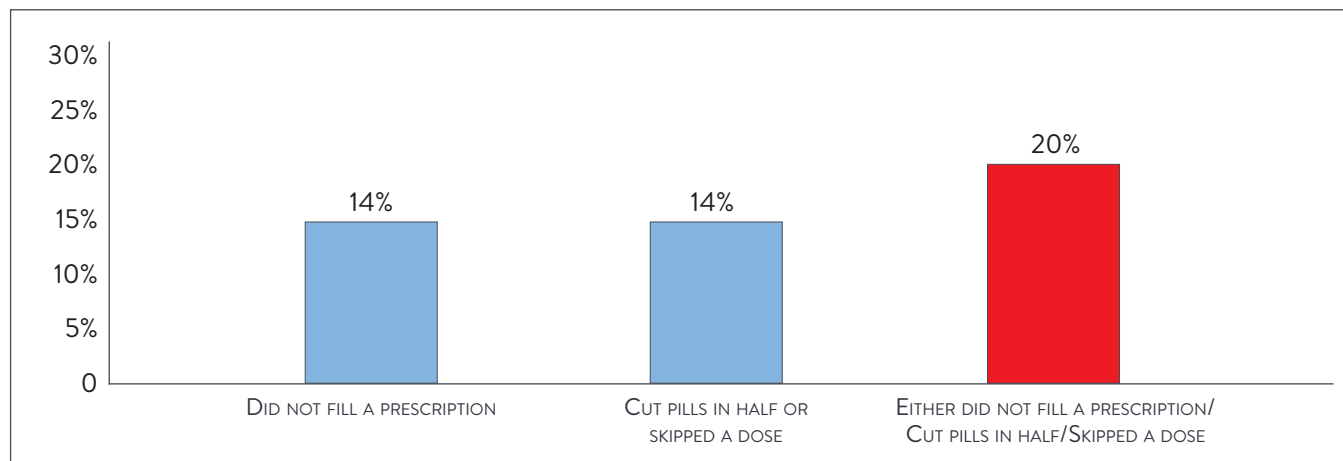


Source: 2020 Poll of New Jersey Adults, Ages 18+, Altarum Healthcare Value Hub’s Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey

In addition to being worried about prescription drug affordability in the future, many New Jersey residents experienced hardship in the prior 12 months due to the cost of prescription drugs. Indeed, cost concerns led 1 in 5 New Jersey adults (20%) to not fill a prescription, cut pills in half or skip a dose of medicine (see Figure 2).

Regions within New Jersey show significant variation with respect to drug affordability issues (see Table 1). Seventeen percent of adults in Central New Jersey had difficulty affording prescription drugs in the prior 12 months, while adults in Southern New Jersey fared much worse, at 24%. Surprisingly, most of the regional variation was due to adults not filling their prescription—in contrast, similar numbers reported rationing prescription drugs, either by cutting pills in half or skipping doses, in each region.

Figure 2
Did not Fill a Prescription, Cut Pills in Half or Skipped a Dose Due to Concerns About Cost



Source: 2020 Poll of New Jersey Adults, Ages 18+, Altarum Healthcare Value Hub, Altarum’s Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey

Table 1
New Jersey Adults with Drug Affordability Issues, By Region

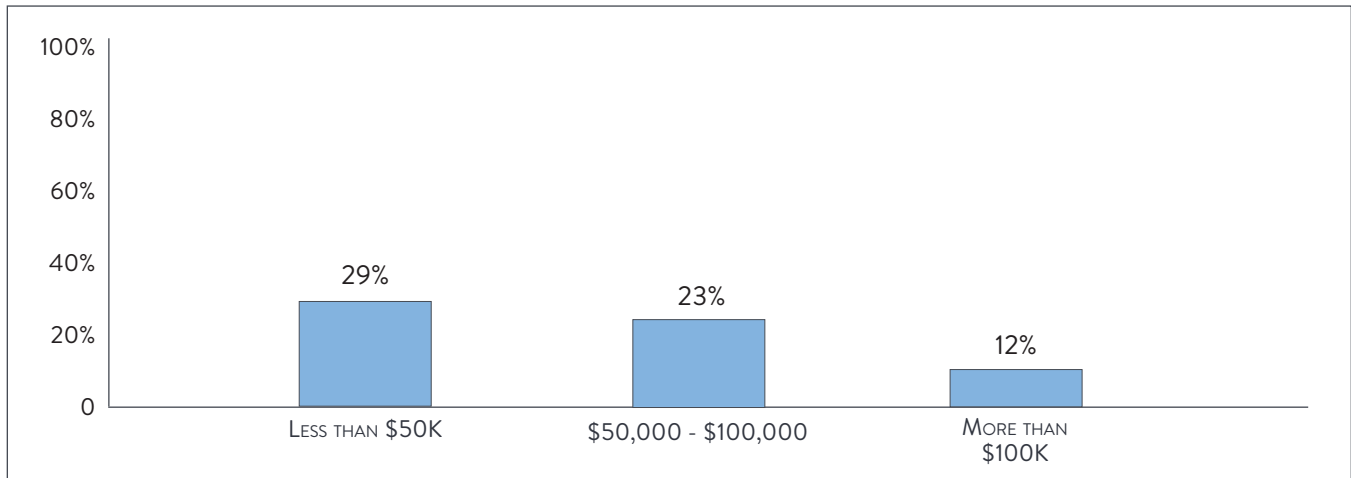
Region	CUT PILLS IN HALF OR SKIPPED A DOSE	DID NOT FILL A PRESCRIPTION	EITHER DID NOT FILL A PRESCRIPTION/CUT PILLS IN HALF/OR SKIPPED A DOSE
NORTHERN NEW JERSEY	14%	14%	21%
CENTRAL NEW JERSEY	14%	10%	17%
SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY	14%	20%	24%

Source: 2020 Poll of New Jersey Adults, Ages 18+, Altarum Healthcare Value Hub, Altarum’s Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey

These hardships have a disproportionate impact on lower income households. As Figure 3 shows, households making less than \$50,000 per year are three times as likely to have rationed their prescription medicines (by not filling a prescription, cutting pills in half or skipping a dose of medicine) as households making more than \$100,000 per year. Moreover, these hardships are alarmingly prevalent in middle income households.

When given more than 20 options, the option cited most frequently as being a "major reason" for high healthcare costs was “drug companies charging too much money:”

- 72%—Drug companies charging too much money
- 68%—Insurance companies charging too much money
- 67%—Hospitals charging too much money

Figure 3**Percent Who Did Not Fill a Prescription, Cut Pills in Half or Skipped a Dose of Medicine, By Income Group**

Source: 2020 Poll of New Jersey Adults, Ages 18+, Altarum Healthcare Value Hub's Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey

When it comes to tackling high drug costs, respondents endorsed a number of strategies:

- **90%**—Authorize the Attorney General to take legal action to prevent price gouging or unfair prescription drug price hikes
- **90%**—Ensure the cost of widely needed vaccines are affordable for all
- **90%**—Require drug companies to provide advanced notice of price increases and information to justify those increases
- **89%**—Prohibit drug companies from charging more in the U.S. than abroad
- **88%**—Create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board to examine the evidence and establish acceptable costs for drugs
- **88%**—Set standard prices for drugs to make them affordable

While New Jersey residents are united in calling for the government to address high drug costs, they also see a role for themselves:

- **72%** would switch from a brand name to a generic if given the option
- **56%** have tried to find out the cost of a drug beforehand

In light of these prescription drug cost concerns—as well as concerns about high healthcare costs generally—it is not surprising that New Jersey adults are extremely dissatisfied with the health system:

- Overall, **72%** agreed or strongly agreed that *“the system needs to change,”*
- While just **29%** agreed or strongly agreed that *“we have a great healthcare system in the U.S.”*

There is remarkably high support for government action on drug costs regardless of the respondents' political affiliation (see Table 2).

Table 2
Percent Who Agree/Strongly Agree, by Political Affiliation

SELECTED SURVEY QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS	TOTAL	GENERALLY SPEAKING, DO YOU THINK OF YOURSELF AS...		
		REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRAT	NEITHER
MAJOR REASON FOR RISING HEALTHCARE COSTS: <i>DRUG COMPANIES CHARGING TOO MUCH MONEY</i>	72%	69%	74%	72%
THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD AUTHORIZE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION TO PREVENT PRICE GOUGING OR UNFAIR PRESCRIPTION DRUG HIKES	90%	88%	91%	91%
THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REQUIRE DRUG COMPANIES TO PROVIDE ADVANCED NOTICE OF PRICE INCREASES AND INFORMATION TO JUSTIFY THOSE INCREASES	90%	86%	91%	91%
THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENSURE THE COST OF WIDELY NEEDED VACCINES ARE AFFORDABLE FOR ALL	90%	87%	92%	91%
THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROHIBIT DRUG COMPANIES FROM CHARGING MORE IN THE U.S. THAN ABROAD	89%	84%	91%	92%
THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CREATE A PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD TO EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE AND ESTABLISH ACCEPTABLE COSTS FOR DRUGS	88%	82%	93%	89%
THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SET STANDARD PRICES FOR DRUGS TO MAKE THEM AFFORDABLE	88%	82%	94%	87%

Source: 2020 Poll of New Jersey Adults, Ages 18+, Altarum Healthcare Value Hub, Altarum's Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey

Methodology

Altarum’s Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey (CHESS) is designed to elicit respondents’ unbiased views on a wide range of health system issues, including confidence using the health system, financial burden and views on fixes that might be needed.

The survey used a web panel from Dynata with a demographically balanced sample of approximately 1,000 respondents who live in New Jersey. The survey was conducted only in English and restricted to adults ages 18 and older. Respondents who finished the survey in less than half the median time were excluded from the final sample, leaving 940 cases for analysis. After the exclusions, the demographic composition of respondents was as follows.

Demographic Composition of Survey Respondents

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
HOUSEHOLD INCOME		
Under \$20K	71	8%
\$20K - \$30K	56	6%
\$30K - \$40K	69	7%
\$40K - \$50K	53	6%
\$50K - \$60K	101	11%
\$60K - \$75K	98	10%
\$75K - \$100K	143	15%
\$100K - \$150K	185	20%
\$150K+	164	17%
PARTY AFFILIATION		
REPUBLICAN	291	31%
DEMOCRAT	352	37%
NEITHER	297	32%
AGE		
18-24	81	9%
25-34	87	9%
35-44	185	20%
45-54	174	19%
55-64	190	20%
65+	212	23%

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
GENDER		
MALE	442	47%
FEMALE	498	53%
INSURANCE STATUS		
HEALTH INSURANCE THROUGH EMPLOYER OR FAMILY MEMBER’S EMPLOYER	478	51%
HEALTH INSURANCE I BUY ON MY OWN	91	10%
MEDICARE	229	24%
MEDICAID	80	9%
TRICARE/MILITARY HEALTH SYSTEM	3	<1%
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) HEALTH CARE	11	1%
NO COVERAGE OF ANY TYPE	29	3%
I DON’T KNOW	19	2%
HEALTH STATUS		
EXCELLENT	147	16%
VERY GOOD	368	39%
GOOD	304	32%
FAIR	107	11%
POOR	14	1%

Source: 2020 Poll of New Jersey Adults, Ages 18+, Altarum Healthcare Value Hub’s Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey

Note: Percentages in the body of the brief are based on weighted values, while the data presented in the demographic table is unweighted.



ABOUT ALTARUM’S HEALTHCARE VALUE HUB

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Healthcare Value Hub provides free, timely information about the policies and practices that address high healthcare costs and poor quality, bringing better value to consumers. The Hub is part of Altarum, a nonprofit organization with the mission of creating a better, more sustainable future for all Americans by applying research-based and field-tested solutions that transform our systems of health and healthcare.

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