



The U.S. Healthcare Cost Crisis

June 2019





TOPICS COVERED

- 01 | The impact of healthcare costs on all Americans
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- 03 | The financial and physical toll of healthcare cost to seniors
- 04 | The great disconnect: Seniors' perceptions of quality
- 05 | Seniors' discontent with government

The U.S. Healthcare Cost Crisis: Key Metrics



45%

Fear a major health event will end in bankruptcy.

1 in 4

Skipped medical treatment due to cost.

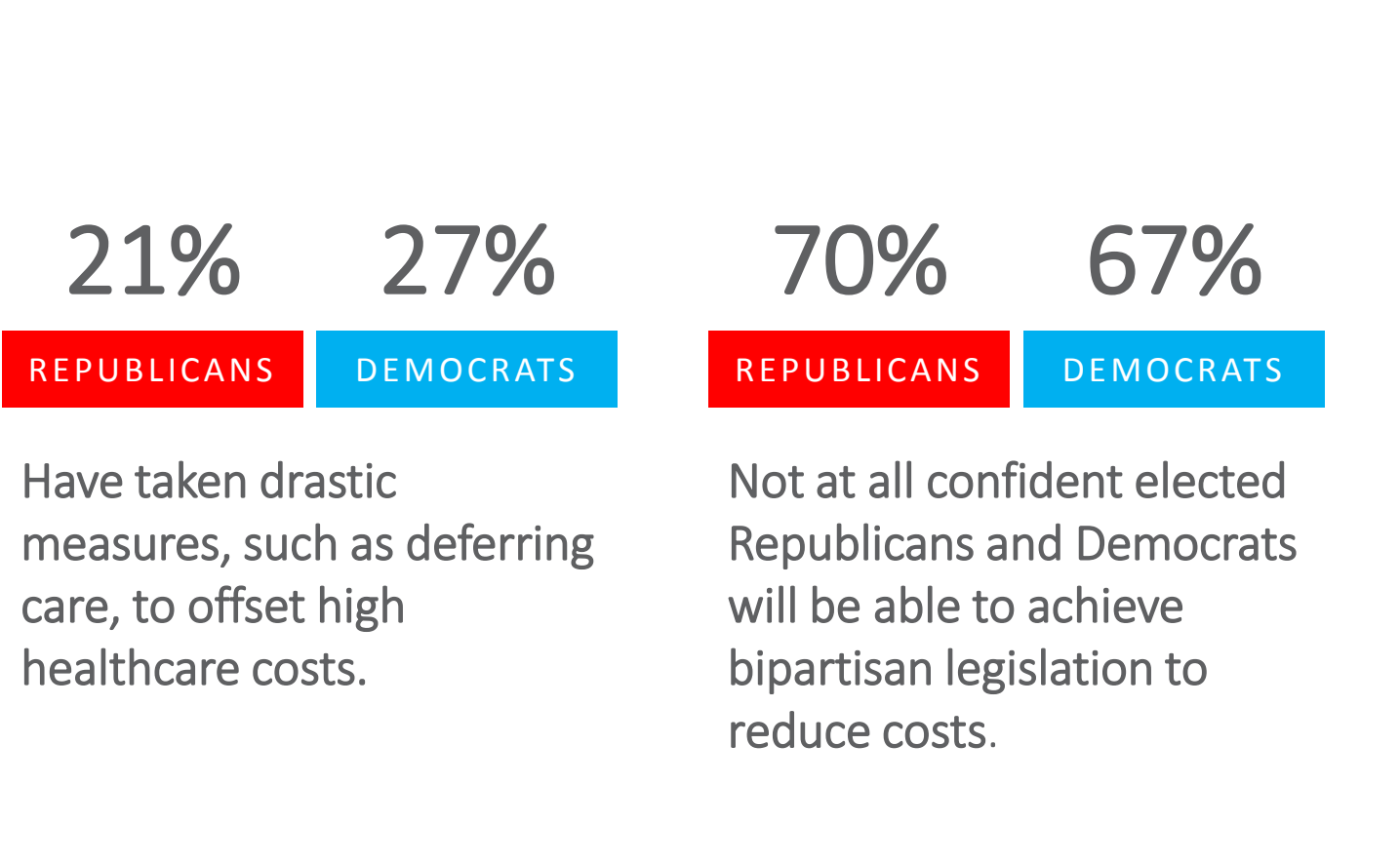
\$88 B

Borrowed to pay for healthcare in past 12 months.

3 in 4

Say government is not doing enough to control costs.

The cost crisis doesn't see red or blue for Americans



Seniors' anxiety over high healthcare costs

77%

of seniors are concerned or extremely concerned **rising healthcare costs will result in significant and lasting damage to the U.S. economy**

92%

of seniors **expect healthcare costs to increase** or **stay the same**

73%
increase

19%
stay the same

The financial toll of healthcare cost to seniors



\$22 billion

withdrawn from long-term
savings in past 12 months

\$116 billion

projected Medicare
spending on retail
prescription drugs in 2019

The impact of healthcare cost on seniors' health



THE SURVEY REVEALED

1 in 10

seniors had a health problem and didn't seek care due to cost

7.5 million

seniors were unable to pay for a medication prescribed to them

...making matters worse

80%

of the prescriptions seniors are unable to afford are for somewhat or very serious health conditions



Lower income seniors suffer greater effects of healthcare costs

% “Extremely concerned” or “Concerned” that...

41%

15%

<\$60K Income

\$60K+ Income

You will be **unable to pay for basic healthcare** in the next 12 months.

42%

11%

<\$60K Income

\$60K+ Income

You will be **unable to pay for needed medicine** in the next 12 months.

45%

25%

<\$60K Income

\$60K+ Income

A major **health event** could lead to **bankruptcy**.



Lower income seniors suffer greater effects of healthcare costs (cont.)

At least one time in the past 12 months (%Yes)...

13%

<\$60K Income

5%

\$60K+ Income

Did not seek needed treatment due to cost.

20%

<\$60K Income

6%

\$60K+ Income

Were unable to pay for prescribed medication due to cost.

10%

<\$60K Income

4%

\$60K+ Income

Chose not to have a needed procedure or test due to cost.

The Great Disconnect

PERCEPTIONS OF QUALITY

56%

of seniors who **the U.S. healthcare system is the best or among the best** in the world.

31st

Infant
Mortality

28th

Life
Expectancy

1st

Healthcare cost
per person

...out of 36 countries

U.S. Ranking Among
OECD Countries



Seniors Discontent With Government Efforts

82%



of seniors feel federal and state **government** is partially to fully **responsible for rising healthcare costs**

75%



Feel government is not doing enough to **ensure healthcare**, in general **is affordable**

80%



Feel government is not doing enough to **ensure prescription drugs are affordable**

Summary



92%

feel healthcare costs will not improve or will get worse

\$22B

withdrawn from long-term savings to pay for healthcare

7.5M

unable to pay for medicine prescribed by their doctor

3 in 4

say government is not doing enough to control costs



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For more information:

Westhealth.org

Healthcostcrisis.org

[@westhealth](https://twitter.com/westhealth)