

Seniors on Medicare: 2020 healthcare challenges, and priorities for 2021

Despite 2020 healthcare worries and concerns, seniors on Medicare are clear on their health policy priorities for the coming year.



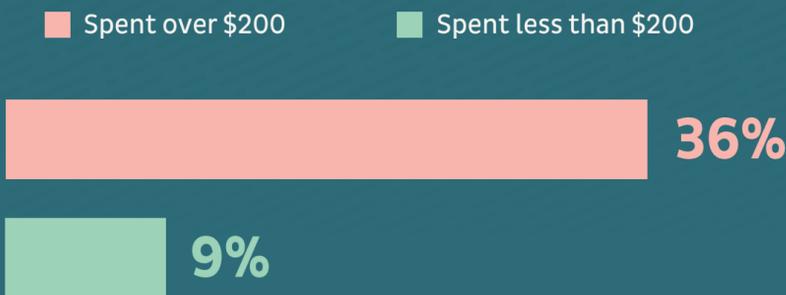
Seniors on Medicare faced high out-of-pocket costs on deductibles, co-pays, and coinsurance for their prescription drugs in 2020

Thinking about 2020, how much did you spend out-of-pocket on deductibles, co-pays and coinsurance for your prescription drugs?



Paying out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in 2020 was particularly worrisome for seniors on Medicare with high out-of-pocket costs

Seniors worrying about the price they paid at the pharmacy counter or by mail order for their prescription drugs in 2020



34% of seniors on Medicare with high out-of-pocket costs reduced other spending in order to afford their prescription drugs

COVID-19 impacted the health and financial decisions of many seniors on Medicare

A majority of seniors on Medicare say COVID-19 impacted their healthcare decisions in the following ways:



58%

Avoided or delayed seeing their health care provider



56%

Delayed starting or did not start a treatment for a chronic condition



54%

Prioritized taking a prescription drug for one condition over another

Priorities for first 100 days

A bipartisan majority of seniors on Medicare agree **lowering out-of-pocket costs** should be a priority for the Biden-Harris administration in its first 100 days.

Lower out-of-pocket costs



A bipartisan majority of seniors on Medicare support legislation that would **evenly distribute out-of-pocket costs** for prescription medications for Medicare beneficiaries throughout the year.

Distribute out-of-pocket costs



Learn more about PAN's survey results

[See Results](#)

METHODOLOGY:

This poll was conducted between January 5-9, 2021 among a national sample of 1,000 seniors taking prescription drugs on Medicare with prescription drug coverage and a chronic condition (referred throughout as seniors on Medicare). The interviews were conducted online and the data were unweighted. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.