

# The True Cost of RX



Attachment L

“It’s not right that people have to choose between paying their utility bills and paying for their medication.”

-Austin, 30, Denver County

## Making Difficult Choices

“My friends often have to choose to pay rent or pay for their medication. Sometimes this means skipping rent for a month so that they can afford their medications.”

-Tania, 40, Broomfield County

“When I experience a sudden change in my medication’s price, I cut back in my other areas of my health care. I don’t fill my prescriptions. I don’t make appointments. I delay taking care of myself. I worry, and go back to adjusting my budget”.

-Sandra, 71, Adams County

“My wife needs a specific blood thinner called Xarelto, which costs \$450/month without insurance. I have recently been laid off because of COVID and lost my insurance. Now my wife and I have to choose between paying our bills, buying groceries, or buying the medication.”

-Matthew, 32, Denver County

“Everyone I know struggles to afford their prescriptions - my family, friends, everyone. There are a lot of times where I have to decide between affording medication and paying bills.”

-Shane, 43, Denver County

“There are some prescription drugs I just don’t get because they’re too expensive.”

-Ida, 32, Denver County

“I stopped taking my medication, so I could afford my daughter’s medication.”

-Diana, 30, Arapahoe County

## Families and Unaffordability

“Everyone I know struggles with prescription costs. We struggle. My parents, my husband’s parents. Everyone.”

-Maria, Adams County

“I have a family of five. My wife is disabled and depends on medication. I am the sole provider and medication costs are so high even with insurance that we are struggling to keep up with costs.”

-Conrado, 48, Adams County

“My wife and I currently pay \$2,200/month for health insurance. With health insurance, a three-month supply of my medication costs \$500. Without insurance, that same prescription costs over \$2,100/month. I currently have very little money left after paying mortgage and insurance.”

-Tom, Boulder County

“My brother suffers from a mental/behavioral health issue that requires a number of medications. He does not have documentation and so cannot qualify for Medicaid. I have been able to get him discounted medications through our pharmacy, but still pay \$200/month. I’m retired with limited income and he has no income because he cannot work.”

-Bethza, 72, Denver County

## Going Without

“Prescription drug costs are way too high. I work in the healthcare industry and I just went with a man to buy his medication and it was \$400. He didn’t even get them because they were too expensive.”

-Andrea, 39, Arapahoe County

“I don’t even take prescriptions anymore. When something is wrong with me, I just drink.”

-Robert, 43, Adams County



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“I’m a nurse. I’ve seen some patients not receive the care that they need because of the lack of affordability.”

-Terry, 47, Adams County

## Inaccessibility

“I use a steroid inhaler and take diabetes and cholesterol medications. They’re so expensive that I stopped taking my diabetes and cholesterol medications. I recently got sick and the inhaler alone with insurance was \$60.00. I often have to choose between food and medication.”

-Dawn, 45, Jefferson County

“I have asthma and because I’m uninsured I often have trouble affording inhalers and other medications.”

-Jesus, 27, Arapahoe County

“My ex-girlfriend takes diabetes medications. They are out of control expensive. She especially struggles to afford Zenpep, which is a life-saving drug that acts as a hormone replacement. It’s rare and hard to get and super expensive. I think it’s really messed up that a life-saving drug is so expensive and inaccessible.”

-Robert, 39, Jefferson County

“I currently have COVID and I expect to struggle with affording my meds since I have been out of work with a high fever for 15 days now.”

-Allison, 33, El Paso County

## Medicaid

“My brother has schizophrenia and when he did not have Medicaid his medication was expensive. His meds were more than \$100 a month and struggled to pay bills but since they have gotten on Medicaid they are not struggling as much.”

-Jacob, 51 Arapahoe County

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-Andrea, 39, Arapahoe County

“Well I have to make literally nothing so I can have Medicaid so that my scripts are affordable. It is enraging and a slap in the face and a heel in the back.”

-Adam, 39, Larimer County

“Me and most of my household struggle to afford prescription medications. I’m worried that I might be losing my Medicaid soon and won’t be able to afford my prescriptions.”

-Joseph, 27, Adams County

“I am diabetic. About 3 years ago both mine and my wife’s diabetes medications cost \$1,400 a month and my insurance was not covering it. I lost my job and then used all of my savings/retirement on medical costs. I’m now on Medicaid, but I cannot work because if I take a minimum wage job I’ll lose Medicaid, which I need to cover our medical costs.”

Anonymous, Pueblo County



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“I’m allergic to bees. I used to be able to afford an epipen when it was \$45 but now they are \$600 for one epipen. This limits my ability to do things like camp and hike or even travel out of the country.”

-Mixon, 53, Denver County