



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE
FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

The Poll That Keeps on Giving: Health Care Affordability in Connecticut

November 15, 2018

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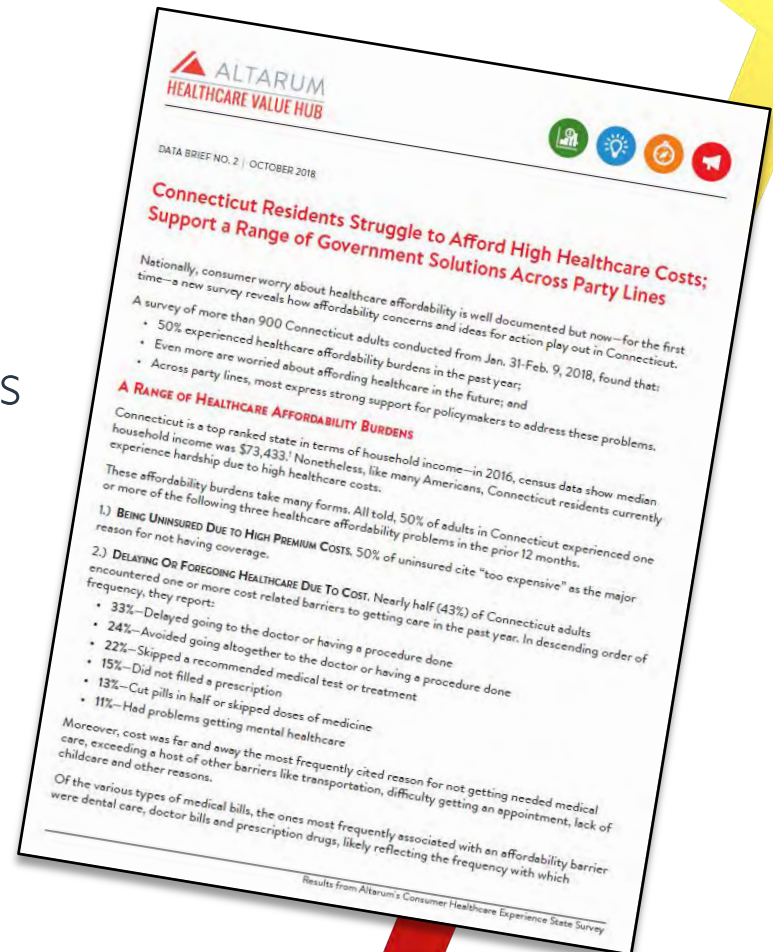
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

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The Poll That Keeps On Giving: Health Care Affordability in Connecticut Overview

- Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut
- Why the poll?
 - Focus on affordability and prices
- Getting the word out
 - Prescription drugs (April 2018)
 - Health care affordability (October 2018-?)





Universal Health Care Foundation Mission Statement

- To serve as a catalyst that engages residents and communities in shaping a democratic health system that provides **universal access to quality, affordable health care** and promotes **health** in Connecticut.
- We believe that **health care is a fundamental right** and that our work is part of a broader movement for **social and economic justice**.

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

Who We Are And What We Do



- 501(c)3 non profit “activist philanthropy”
- Conversion foundation
- Program
 - Advocacy (inside and outside)
 - Public policy monitoring, research, and development
 - Public education
- Communications
- Grantmaking



Affordability Two Connecticut

- One of the highest median incomes in the US: \$73,433
- “Only” 21% of population on Medicaid



BUT...

Affordability Two Connecticut

- 40% of Connecticut households fall under the income threshold for meeting basic needs (ALICE)
- Increasing disparities in health and longevity by income, race, and ethnicity

Affordability Extreme Income Inequality

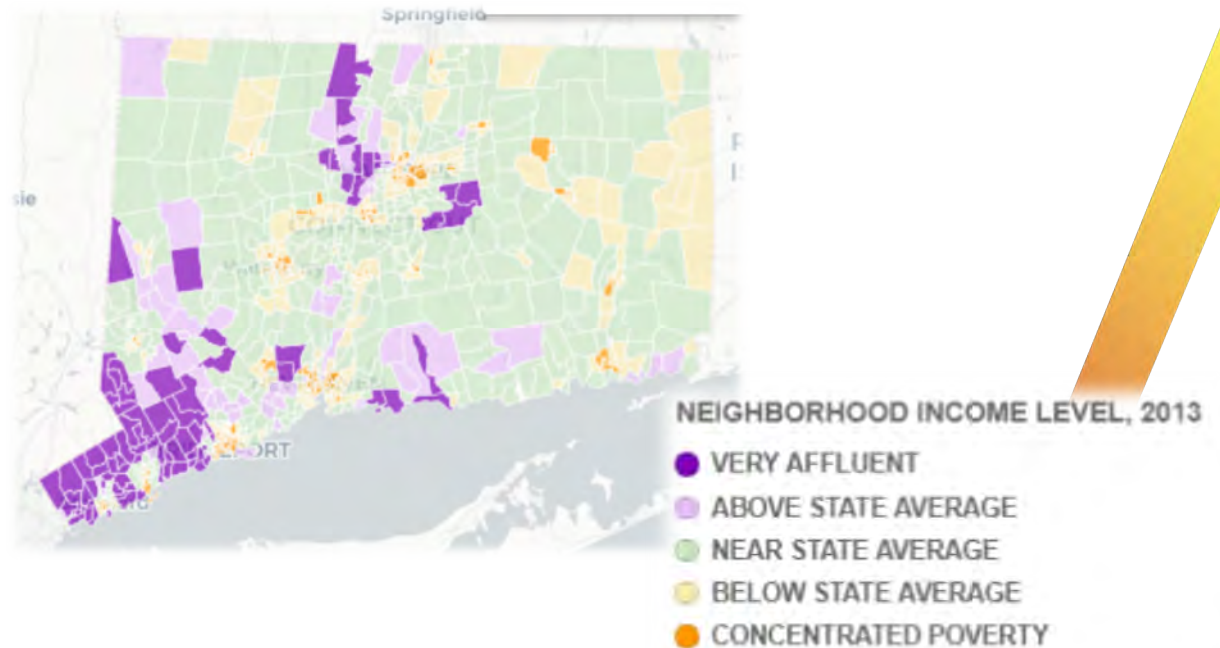
**Average
Income**

TOP 1% (\$660K+)

**\$2.4
million/year**

BOTTOM 99%

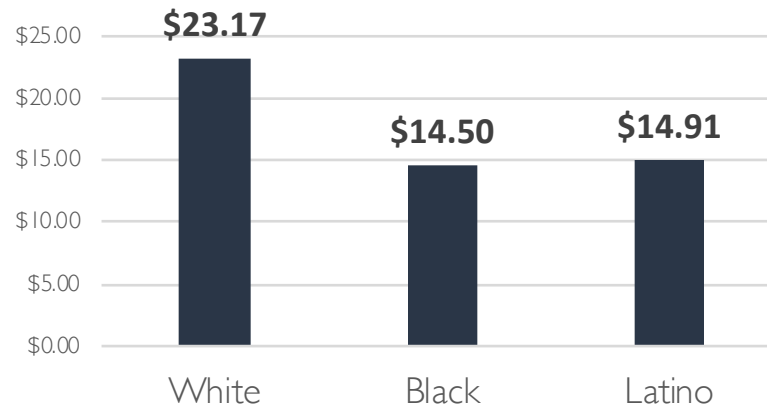
\$56,445



Affordability Disparities

“The impact of ... economic pressures on workers and their families is widespread and disproportionately affects women and people of color. Despite some recent signs that Connecticut’s economy is growing and wages for low-wage workers are increasing, working families continue to struggle to reach a decent standard of living.”

**Median hourly wages by race/ethnicity
(in 2017*) dollars**



Affordability

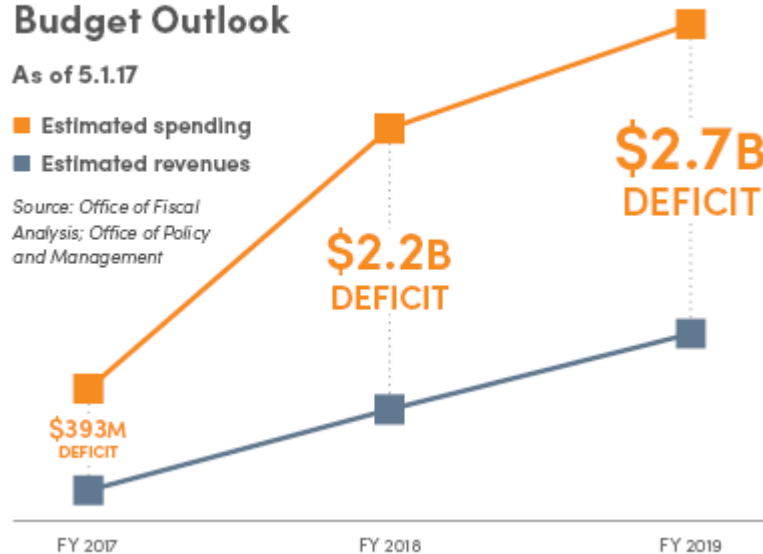
State Budget Challenges

Red Ink: Connecticut's Budget Outlook

As of 5.1.17

■ Estimated spending
■ Estimated revenues

Source: Office of Fiscal Analysis; Office of Policy and Management



- Huge budget deficits:
 - Projected \$1.9 billion in 2020,
 - Projected \$2.5 billion in 2021
- State employee and retiree health benefits, pensions
- Medicaid: \$2.6 billion annual budget

It's the Prices Stupid: Focus on Prices and Monopoly Power

- **Hospitals**

- Consolidation and market power to raise prices
- Rate setting; reference pricing

- **Insurance**

- Mega-mergers
- Affordability to consumers in rate review

- **Prescription drugs**

- Transparency and price gouging
- Relief from unaffordable out-of-pocket costs

Why Consolidation in the Hospital and Insurance Industries is Hurting us

Posted on [January 13, 2016](#) by [universalhealthct](#)



Hospitals



Insurers



Partnering with ALTARUM HEALTHCARE VALUE HUB

The Survey Process

- Survey conducted in February 2018
- Review of data and editing of brief
 - Relevance to policy agenda
 - How to slice the data
 - by region?
 - by income?
 - by insurance coverage?

First brief published in April, during legislative session:

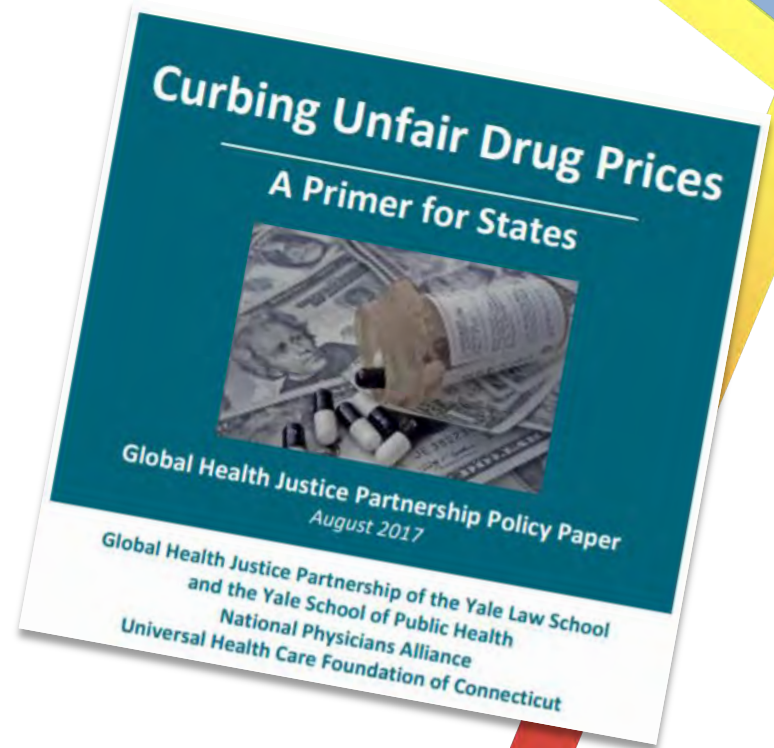
- Connecticut Residents Worried about High Drug Costs—Express Bipartisan Support for a Range of Government Solutions



Two Bites at the Apple (so far)

I. Prescription drugs

- 2017
 - Legislation banning gag clauses and clawbacks: after starting broad with concept bills on transparency and price gouging
 - Paper with Yale Global Health Justice Partnership and National Physicians Alliance: [Curbing Unfair Drug Prices, A Primer for States](#)
 - Health Care Cabinet studies prescription drug costs



Two Bites at the Apple (so far)

I. Prescription drugs

2018

- Cabinet reports recommendations
- Transparency legislation drafted

The screenshot shows the Connecticut General Assembly website. The header includes the state seal, the text 'CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY', and the location 'State Capitol | Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1562'. There are navigation links for 'Representation', 'Committees', 'Offices', 'Commissions', 'Session Items', 'Statutes', 'Bill Info', 'Associated', and 'State Auditors'. The main content area is titled 'Substitute for Raised H.B. No. 5384 Session Year 2018'. Below the title, it says 'AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS.' and provides a brief description: 'To impose additional disclosure and reporting requirements on pharmacy benefits managers, health carriers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, the Office of Health Strategy and the Insurance Department concerning prescription drug rebates and the cost of prescription drugs.' It also lists the 'Introduced by:' as the 'Insurance and Real Estate Committee'. At the bottom, there are sections for 'Text of Bill' and 'Committee Actions' with various links.

Press Releases

The screenshot shows a press release from the State of Connecticut, dated 02/21/2018, issued by Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman. The title is 'Lt. Gov. Wyman: Healthcare Cabinet Issues Final Recommendations On Containing Prescription Drug Costs'. The text of the release states: '(HARTFORD, CT) – Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, Chair of the state's Healthcare Cabinet, today announced that the Cabinet has finished its report recommending cost containment strategies for prescription drugs. The report is the culmination of a year-long effort by the Cabinet and its working groups to examine the factors driving the increasing costs of prescription drugs and the impact of those rising costs. "Prescription drugs are a significant part of overall healthcare costs. Connecticut can both improve oversight of how much consumers are paying at the pharmacy and how those costs are determined, and put in place initiatives that help patients understand and correctly take their prescription drugs so they get the full value of that medication," said Lt. Governor Wyman. "These recommendations strengthen the transparency around how manufacturers price prescription drugs, improve resources to patients and providers, and offer short- and long-term cost containment strategies for both prescription drugs and healthcare as a whole."'

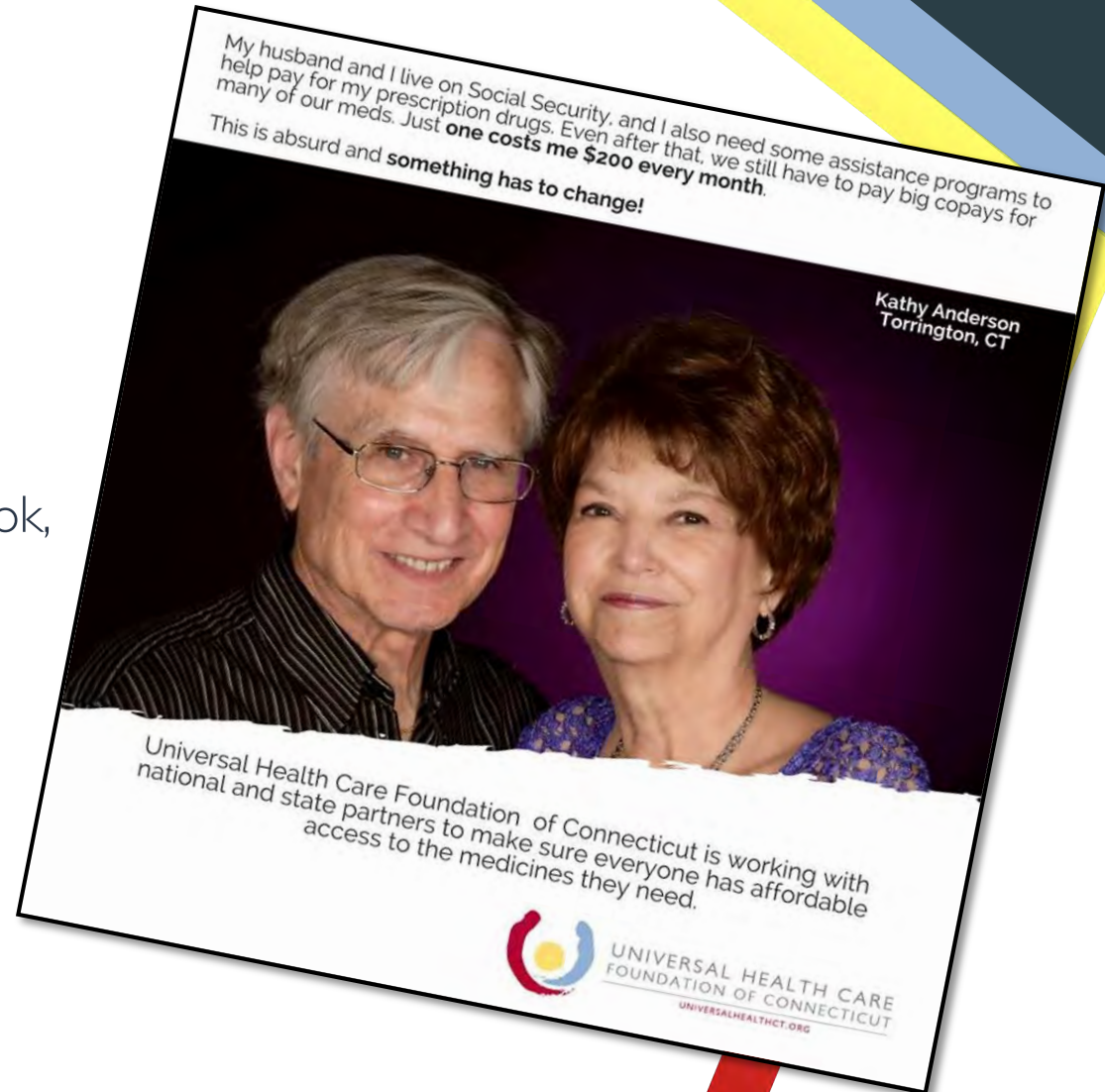
Prescription drugs

- Press conference at legislative office building
 - Frances Padilla, UHCF president
 - Public officials from both parties
 - Patient advocate, National MS Society, National Physicians Alliance



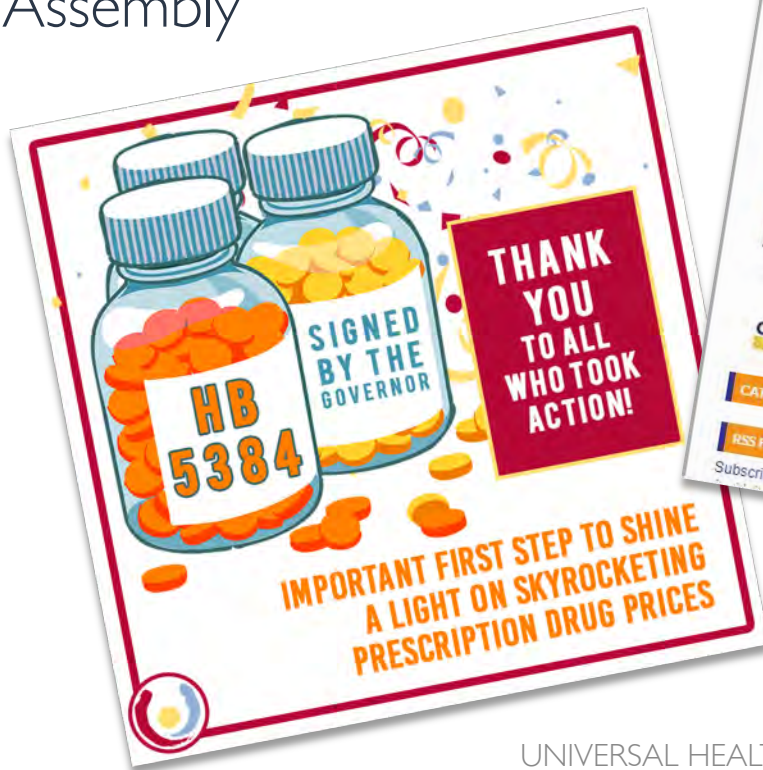
Prescription drugs

- Find stories and use photos: The data are about PEOPLE
- Social media
 - Infographics for Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- Blog
- Web page with brief, infographic, one page summary
- Emails to key organizations
- Emails to legislators (× 3)



Prescription drugs

Result: [PA 18-41](#) An Act Concerning Prescription Drug Costs, passed unanimously by CT General Assembly





**Lather, Rinse,
Repeat!**

Two Bites at the Apple (so far)

2. Health Care Affordability

- Two more briefs published in October
 - Connecticut Residents Struggle to Afford High Healthcare Costs: Support a Range of Government Solutions Across Party Lines
 - Difficulty Navigating Cost Obligations Adds to Healthcare Affordability Woes in Connecticut



Health Care Affordability Context: Election, IVote4HealthCare



- October 10
Telephone Press
Conference
 - Lynne Ide
 - Lynn Quincy
 - Ted Doolittle (CT Office
of Healthcare Advocate)



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WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2015 [DEALS](#) [ENTERTAINMENT](#) [FOOD & DRINK](#) [SPORTS](#) [COMMUNITY](#) [TRAVEL](#) [POLITICS](#) [BEST OF CONNECTICUT](#) 64°

CVS-Aetna Deal Clears Key Hurdle With Conditional Federal Approval

ADVERTISMENT

Federal regulators have approved the \$69 billion acquisition of Aetna Inc. by CVS Health Corp. (File photo/The Hartford Courant)

By **Stephen Singer** · Contact Reporter
 ssinger@courant.com

Health Care Affordability

- In-person meeting with key legislative staff
- Offered to meet with candidates
- In person event with health care thought leaders, Foundation supporters, activists



Health Care Affordability

- Infographics featuring PEOPLE
- Social media posts, (now and later)
- Blog
- Web page with briefs, large infographic and one page summaries

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

ALTARUM HEALTHCARE VALUE HUB

Poll of Connecticut Residents Shows the Struggle to Afford Healthcare & Support For a Range of Solutions Across Party Lines

Data from Altarum's Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey

Poll of Connecticut Residents Shows Struggles with High Healthcare Costs and Support for Government Solutions Across Party Lines

According to a survey of more than 900 Connecticut adults conducted from Jan. 31-Feb. 9, 2018, there is great concern about high health care costs and a desire to enact solutions.

[Click here to read three briefs from this poll](#)

Connecticut Residents STRUGGLE to afford high healthcare costs

Nationally, consumer worry about healthcare affordability is well documented but now - for the first time - a new survey reveals how affordability concerns and ideas for action play out in Connecticut.

50% of Connecticut adults experienced a problem with health care affordability in the past year.

50% of uninsured cite "too expensive" as the major reason for not having coverage.

43% of Connecticut adults delayed or did not get care due to cost.

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut is working with state and national partners to make sure everyone has access to affordable, high-quality health care.

Connecticut Residents Struggle to Afford High Healthcare Costs

50% experienced a problem with health care affordability in the past year

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut is working with state and national partners to make sure everyone has access to affordable, high-quality health care.



"I split more than one half of my take home pay between rent & health care. It is difficult to keep my head above water. There has to be a better, more affordable way."

Carlos



"My grandma has a fixed income. Her health insurance is provided through my grandfather's pension and Medicare. If the benefits are cut, she won't be able to survive. I thank God her healthcare is protected-for now."

Ashley Hartford



"We were in a really rough spot- we almost lost our car and were almost evicted - all because of health care."

Montreal New Haven



"This is a photo of me receiving treatment at the Smilow Cancer Center at Yale-New Haven Hospital in Waterford, CT. If it were not for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicare, and state Medicaid, I would not be able to afford the life saving treatments that I need on a continuous basis. These medical benefits allow me to maintain my health and a reasonable quality of life."

Michael Gales Ferry

50% of Connecticut adults experienced a problem with health care affordability in the last year.

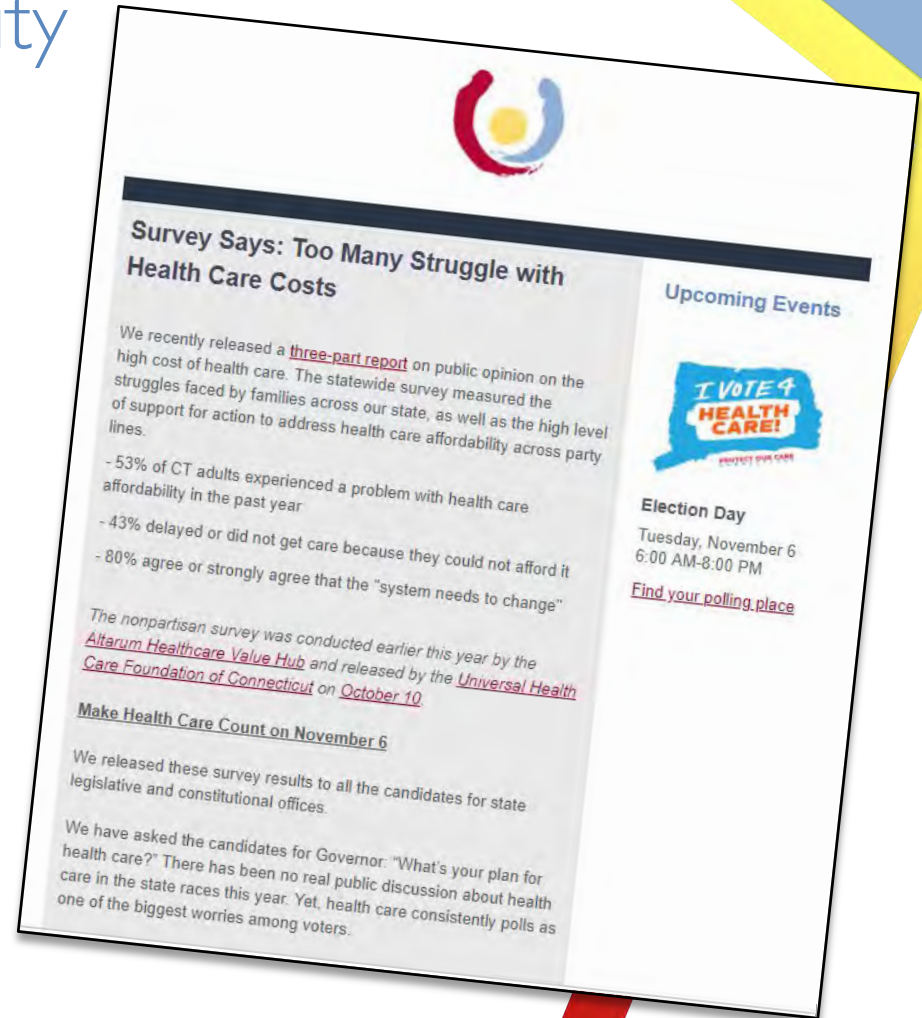


" We were in a really, really tough spot- we almost lost our cars, almost got evicted- all because of health care costs."

-Montreal

Health Care Affordability

- Eblast to our list, grantees, partners involved in I Vote 4 Health Care campaign, Protect Our Care CT campaign
- Eblast to legislators and candidates



Health Care Affordability Looking Back

Result:
Added to the buzz around health care as an issue during the election season

62% of Connecticut adults are worried or very worried about not being able to afford health insurance in the future



I take care of my six year old grandson, Jamell- he has sickle cell anemia, and has to take medication for the rest of his life. We can't afford to pay for his medicine out of pocket.

-Cheryl

CT RESIDENTS ARE WORRIED ABOUT HIGH PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

People are worried about affording the medications they need to stay healthy.

88% of people who take prescriptions regularly worry they won't be able to afford their medications

50% Employer-provided insurance

64% Buy insurance on their own

69% of people with HUSKY coverage worry they won't be able to afford the prescription drugs they need

20% Reported they were so worried about drug prices they did one or more of the following:

- not fill a prescription
- cut pills in half
- skip a prescribed dose

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut is working with national and state partners to make sure everyone has affordable access to the medicines they need.

The Poll that Keeps on Giving Looking Forward

- Teeing up health care affordability for the 2019 legislative session and beyond
- Educating legislators and new administration
- Useful to Office of Healthcare Advocate and newly established Office of Health Strategy



The Poll that Keeps on Giving Looking Forward

- Prompting more research: possible development of a health care affordability standard
- Educating and engaging consumers in the fight to make health care affordable in Connecticut



THANK YOU!

- Altarum Healthcare Value Hub
- Images/infographics by Stephanye Clarke, UHCF Communications Coordinator
- Slides co-authored and designed by Rosana Ferraro, UHCF Policy & Program Officer

Slide # Sources/Credits

- 5 Median Income Source: The 10 Wealthiest States, Casey Leins, May 29, 2018, US News: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/slideshows/10-wealthiest-states-in-america>
Medicaid Info Source: Medicaid's role in Connecticut's economy, health system, and budget, Edwin Park (Georgetown University Center for Children & Families, August 2018, Connecticut Health Foundation: <https://www.cthealth.org/publication/medicaids-role-in-connecticuts-economy-health-system-and-budget/>
- 6 Source: ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed): A Study of Financial Hardship in Connecticut: 2018 Report, Connecticut United Way, 2018: http://alice.ctunitedway.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/CT-United-Ways-2018-ALICE-Report-8.13.18_Hires-1.pdf
- 7 Income Source: Already Deep in Debt, Connecticut Struggles with Extremes of Wealth & Income, Keith M. Phaneuf, May 29, 2018, CT Mirror: <https://ctmirror.org/2018/05/29/already-deep-debt-connecticut-struggles-extremes-wealth-income/> (Cites Economic Policy Institute data)
Map Source: Connecticut Data Map: Inequality and Neighborhood Income, 1980-2013, Mark Abraham, August 26, 2015, DataHaven: <http://www.ctdatahaven.org/data-resources/connecticut-data-map-inequality-and-neighborhood-income-1980-2013>
- 8 Chart Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey data, *Using CPI-U-RS
Note: These data are from 2015, the last year with a large enough sample for the analysis: <https://www.epi.org/data/>
Quote Source: The State of Working Connecticut: Wages Stagnant for Working Families, Jamie Mills, JD, & Rachel Silbermann, PhD, August 2018, CT Voices for Children: <http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/SOWC%202018%20Final.pdf>
- 9 Deficit Chart Source: Fixing Connecticut's Fiscal Problems: Spending Reforms, Long-Term Solutions, Best Practices, May 2017, Connecticut Business and Industry Association: <https://www.cbia.com/resources/issues-policies/policy-agendas/fixing-connecticuts-fiscal-problems/>
Info Source: A Legacy of Debt – Connecticut Standing On Its Own Fiscal Cliff, Keith M. Phaneuf, January 30, 2017, CT Mirror: <https://ctmirror.org/2017/01/30/a-legacy-of-debt-connecticut-standing-on-its-own-fiscal-cliff/>
- 22 Photographs by Tom Virgin of Studio Tom