Rx PRICE GOUGING vs. 50+ INCOME

Americans pay among the highest drug prices in the world and many are having to choose between buying the medications they need and other essentials. Meanwhile, brand name drug prices continue to increase at rates that far exceed general inflation. These relentless price increases could force many Americans to pay drug prices that exceed their entire income for a year.

AVG. ANNUAL COST

The average annual cost for one brand name drug, used on a chronic basis, was around $6,800 in 2017, almost $1,000 more than in 2015.[1]

PhRMA SPENDS BILLIONS

Big Pharma spent nearly $169 million for lobbying and more than $6 billion for advertising in 2018. [5]

IN OUR STATE

The average annual cost of prescription drug treatment increased 57.8% between 2012 and 2017, while the annual income for Arizonans only increased 12%.[6]

NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS

The average older American takes 4.5 prescription drugs, typically on a chronic basis.[2]

AMERICANS PAY MORE

Americans can pay double what similar countries pay for the same name brand drugs.[4]

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT?

Nearly 80% of every Big Pharma dollar goes to something other than research and development.[3]

STOP GREED Rx
CUT DRUG PRICES NOW℠

AARP® Real Possibilities

[1,2] Stephen W. Schondelmeyer and Leigh Purvis, "Rx Price Watch Report: Trends in Retail Prices of Brand Name Prescription Drugs Widely Used by Older Americans, 2017 Year-End Update," AARP Public Policy Institute, Washington, DC, September 2018.
[3] https://www.csrxp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/CSRxP_One_pager_III_FINAL-SITERELEASE.pdf
[4] https://aspe.hhs.gov/system/files/pdf/259996/ComparisonUSInternationalPricesTopSpendingPartBDrugs.pdf
[5] https://www.opensecrets.org/lobby/induscode.php?id=H4300&year=2018 and https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2720029
[6] Based on the price associated with taking 4 widely used brand name prescription drugs. Income is based on median person-level income.