

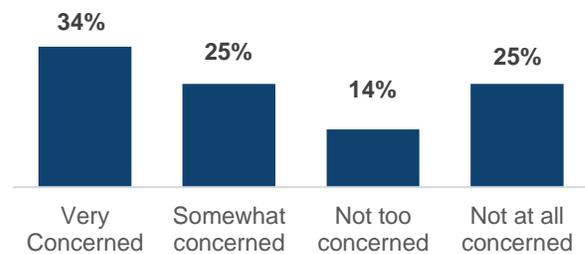
**BACKGROUND**

This survey was conducted before the Covid-19 pandemic. The skyrocketing prescription drug costs coupled with the economic recession, widespread unemployment and subsequent loss of health insurance are creating increased challenges for many Americans. The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to be more burdensome to older people and those who are taking multiple medications. In New Jersey a large portion of registered voters are impacted by the prescription drug price issue with the vast majority (79%) reporting they or someone in their household have taken prescription drugs in the past two years and about three in five (59%) saying they are concerned about the cost of their medications. When asked to rate how reasonable the prices of prescription drugs are on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being reasonable and 5 being unreasonable), more than half (58%) rated the costs as a 4 or a 5.

**Majority Take Prescriptions on a Daily Basis and are Concerned About Affordability**

**79%** of registered voters age 18-plus in New Jersey report they have taken prescription drugs in the past two years or live with someone who has.  
**86%** of those who report someone in the household has taken a prescription drug in the past two years also indicate medication is taken on a daily basis.  
**74%** of registered voters age 18-plus in New Jersey believe that consumers pay more for the same prescription in the United States than in other countries.

Level of concern about being able to afford the price of prescription medications in the future



**Views About Pharmaceutical Companies: Profit vs. Concern for Helping**

Among those registered voters age 18-plus nearly three-quarters (74%) believe that pharmaceutical or drug companies are too concerned about making a profit and not concerned enough about helping people. Two in ten (19%) believe Pharmaceutical or drug companies are concerned with both equally.

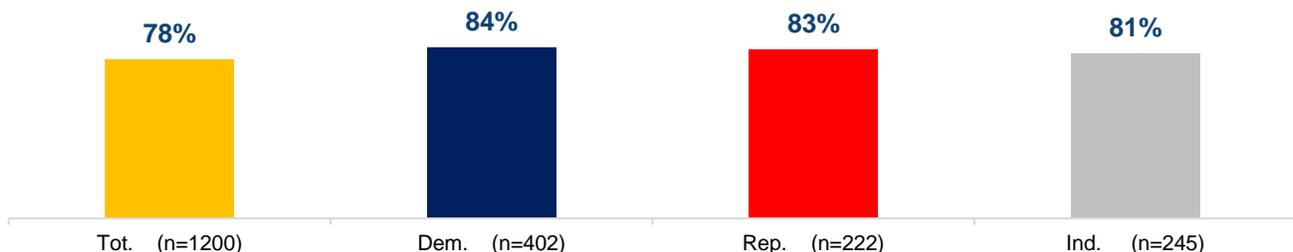
Pharmaceutical companies: profit vs. concern for helping people



**Majority say Elected Officials Are Not Doing Enough to Address High Prescription Prices**

Regardless of party affiliation the vast majority feel elected officials are not doing enough to address the high cost of prescription drugs. When asked whether elected officials are doing too much, too little or just enough to address the high cost of prescription drugs, more than three-quarters say elected officials are doing too little.

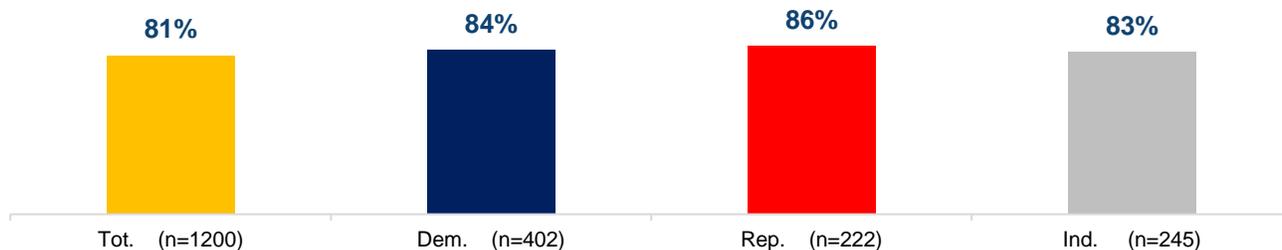
Percent who say elected officials are doing too little to address high prices



## Majority say Pharmaceutical Drug Companies Have Influence Over Elected Officials

Regardless of party affiliation most (80%) registered voters feel pharmaceutical companies have at least some influence over the governor and state legislators in New Jersey.

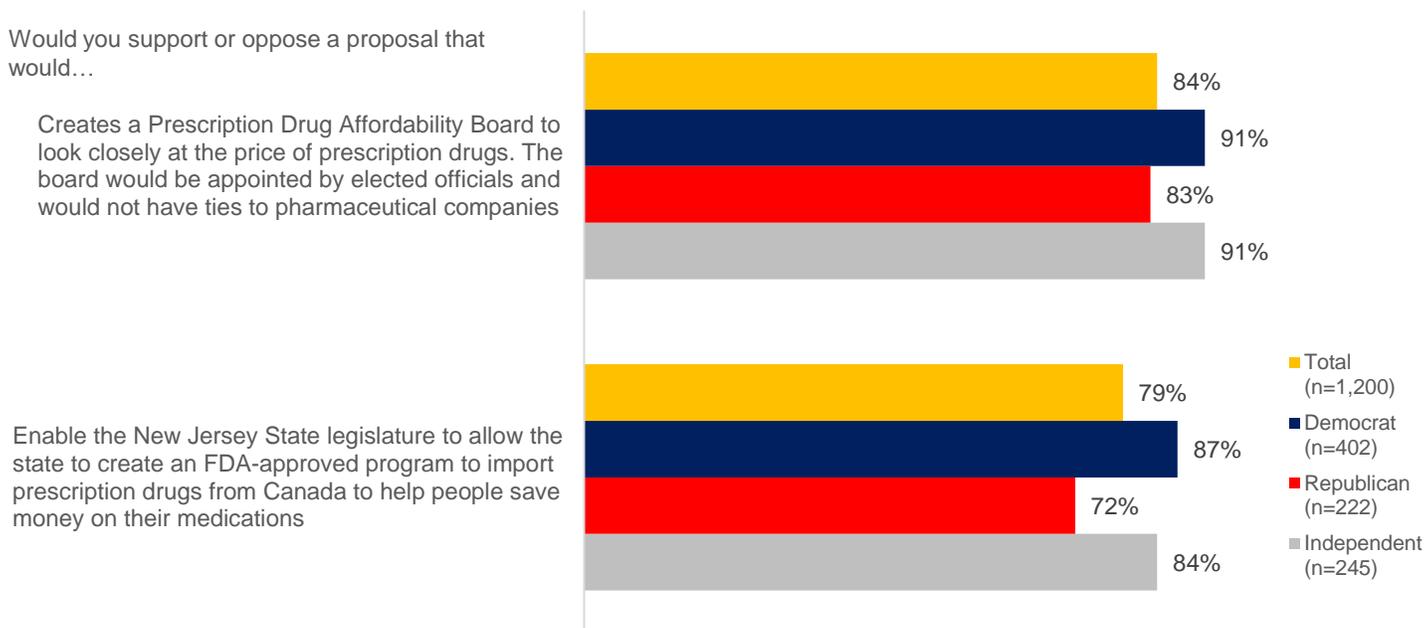
Percent who say pharmaceutical drug companies have influence over Governor or state legislators



## Nearly all Support Proposals to Cut Prescription Drug Prices

Vast majorities support proposals aimed at lowering prescription drug prices. About eight in ten support allowing New Jersey to create a federally-approved program to import prescription drugs from Canada to help people save money on their medications, while more than eight in ten support the creation of a Prescription Drug Affordability Board to look closely at the prices. Support remains high across party affiliation.

Percent of registered voters age 18-plus indicating they "strongly support or support" prescription drug proposals



### METHODOLOGY

AARP engaged American Direction Research Group (ADRG) to conduct a quantitative research study among New Jersey residents ages 18-plus. Interviews were conducted with 1,200 residents of New Jersey between November 18, 2019 and December 8, 2019. These survey results have a 2.83% margin of error. For more information on the methodology or the survey, contact Cassandra Cantave at 202-434-3547 or [ccantave@aarp.org](mailto:ccantave@aarp.org).