



Consumer Views on Prescription Drugs: Annotated Questionnaire

July 2021

Methods

Survey sponsor	AARP
Survey/Data collection supplier	Alan Newman Research
Population represented	U.S. registered voters ages 50 and older
Sample size	1,605
Mode of data collection	Telephone (RDD landline and RDD cell phones)
Type of sample (probability/non-probability)	Probability
Start and end dates of data collection	June 1-June 13, 2021
Margin of sampling error for total sample	+/- 3.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level for the base sample of n=1,000 respondents
Margin of sampling error for key subgroups	±4.9% at the 95% level of confidence for the over-sample of n=404 African American/Black respondents ±4.8% at the 95% level of confidence for the over-sample sample of 414 Hispanic/Latino respondents
Weighting	Data are weighted by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and education according to 2019 5-year Census Bureau National ACS statistics.
Contact for more information	Teresa A. Keenan, tkeenan@aarp.org For media inquiries, contact media@aarp.org

Vendor

ANR Market Research Consultants conducted this survey on behalf of AARP.

For further information, please visit their website: <http://anr.com>

Screening Questions

S1. Our study is interested in the opinions of people in certain age groups. Could you please tell me your age as of your last birthday? [IN YEARS] (CODED)

	Total (%)
	1,000
Less than 50 [TERMINATE]	0
50-54	19
55-59	16
60-64	21
65 or older	45
Refused	0

S2. Are you registered to vote in [STATE]?

	Total (%)
	1,000
Yes	100
No	0
Don't know/ref.	0

Main

Q1. Do you currently take prescription medication on a regular basis, for example daily, weekly, or monthly?

	Total (%)	Democrats (%)	Republicans (%)	Independents (%)
	1,000	399	317	206
Yes	77	80	76	72
No	22	19	23	27
Don't know/ ref.	1	<1	1	<1

Q2. In the last two years, did you ever decide not to fill a prescription that your doctor had given you?

	Total (%)	Democrats (%)	Republicans (%)	Independents (%)
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>206</i>
Yes	19	17	23	20
No	80	75	75	80
Don't know/ ref.	1	<1	1	0

Q3. What were the reasons you didn't fill your prescription? Please select all that apply. (Read list)

	Total (%)	Democrats (%)	Republicans (%)	Independents (%)
	<i>194</i>	<i>68*</i>	<i>74*</i>	<i>41*</i>
Cost of the drug	40	33	41	50
Didn't think you needed it	25	23	27	25
Side effects of drug	24	16	28	29
You don't like taking prescription drugs	17	11	27	12
Condition improved	15	14	14	18
Thought drug wouldn't help much	14	10	13	23
Used/Looked into other methods of treatment	13	15	11	16
You are already taking too many prescription drugs	12	12	13	14
Drug did not help in the past	8	11	4	13
Something you read or heard about the drug	8	4	8	12
Another doctor said not to take it	5	7	2	7
Confused about the drug	4	3	5	5
None of the above (VOL)	5	9	2	3
Don't know/ref. (VOL)	2	2	4	0

*=small sample size



Q4. Thinking about the next few years, how concerned are you about being able to afford the cost of prescription medication you or a family member may need? (Read list)

	Total (%)	Democrats (%)	Republicans (%)	Independents (%)
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>206</i>
Very concerned	29	29	25	30
Somewhat concerned	29	30	29	29
Not very concerned	19	18	20	22
Not at all concerned	23	23	26	19
Don't know/ref. (VOL)	<1	1	<1	0

Q5. From what you may know, or had to guess, do consumers in the United States pay more, the same or less for the same drugs than consumers in other countries (such as the United Kingdom, France, and Italy)?

	Total (%)	Democrats (%)	Republicans (%)	Independents (%)
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>206</i>
More	71	68	70	79
About the same	8	11	7	6
Less	4	5	5	3
Don't know/ref.	17	17	18	13



Q6. The following are proposals that have been made to lower the prices of prescription drugs. Please indicate whether you would favor or oppose each. If you are unsure, please indicate that.

	Total (%)	Democrats (%)	Republicans (%)	Independents (%)
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>206</i>
Allow Medicare, the largest prescription drug purchaser in the U.S., to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices.				
Favor	87	88	85	89
Oppose	6	5	8	4
Unsure	7	6	7	7
Don't know/ref.	1	1	<1	1
Prevent drug companies from charging more for drugs in the United States than they do in other countries.				
Favor	77	78	75	77
Oppose	16	15	17	14
Unsure	7	6	8	9
Don't know/ref.	1	1	<1	<1
Close the loopholes that allow brand name pharmaceutical companies to charge high prices for new drugs that are simply copycats or minor improvements over existing drugs				
Favor	74	74	75	76
Oppose	16	18	16	13
Unsure	9	8	8	10
Don't know/ref.	1	1	1	---
Put a cap on the amount seniors have to pay out of pocket every year for their prescription drugs.				
Favor	78	80	74	77
Oppose	11	10	13	7
Unsure	10	8	12	14
Don't know/ref.	1	2	1	1
Penalize drug companies that raise their prices higher than inflation.				
Favor	71	73	66	71
Oppose	19	16	22	19
Unsure	10	9	11	8
Don't know/ref.	1	1	1	1



Q7. Some people say that if Congress passes legislation to allow Medicare to negotiate for lower prices, innovation will suffer, making it harder to get lifesaving drugs to market. Do you agree or disagree? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Total (%)	Democrats (%)	Republicans (%)	Independents (%)
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>206</i>
Strongly agree	11	11	14	7
Somewhat agree	17	15	17	17
Somewhat disagree	25	23	27	26
Strongly disagree	35	37	29	40
Don't know/ref.	13	13	13	10

Q8. Some people say that drug prices in the U.S., which are 3 times higher than those in other countries, can be lowered without harming innovation of new medicines. Do you agree or disagree? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Total (%)	Democrats (%)	Republicans (%)	Independents (%)
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>206</i>
Strongly agree	52	54	49	55
Somewhat agree	28	29	29	26
Somewhat disagree	8	7	9	9
Strongly disagree	5	4	6	3
Don't know/ref.	8	7	9	7

Q9. Some people say Congress needs to take action to lower drug prices because some people can't afford to buy medicine and pay for other necessities. Do you agree or disagree? Is that strongly or somewhat?

	Total (%)	Democrats (%)	Republicans (%)	Independents (%)
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>206</i>
Strongly agree	69	75	59	69
Somewhat agree	18	16	22	20
Somewhat disagree	6	4	9	6
Strongly disagree	4	2	6	2
Don't know/ref.	4	3	4	3



Q10. The U.S. government just successfully negotiated with drug companies on the price for the COVID-19 vaccine. Does that make you more or less likely to agree that the government should negotiate for lower drug prices for people in Medicare?

	Total (%)	Democrats (%)	Republicans (%)	Independents (%)
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>206</i>
More likely to agree	71	78	62	75
Less likely to agree	11	7	16	7
No effect	13	11	17	14
Don't know/ref.	6	5	6	5

Q11. How important is it for the president and Congress to agree on solutions to lower prescription drug prices this year? (Read list)

	Total (%)	Democrats (%)	Republicans (%)	Independents (%)
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>206</i>
Very important	70	78	60	68
Somewhat important	21	17	26	25
Not very important	5	3	8	5
Not at all important	3	2	4	1
Don't know/ref. (VOL)	1	1	2	1

Q12. Would you be more or less favorable to a member of Congress that supported legislation to lower prescription drug prices, or would it have no effect on your opinion?

	Total (%)	Democrats (%)	Republicans (%)	Independents (%)
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>206</i>
More favorable	67	77	57	69
Less favorable	5	3	6	5
No effect	24	16	33	22
Don't know/ref.	4	4	5	4

Demographic Characteristics

D1. Insert actual age (captured in screening).

D2. So I can make sure I have it recorded correctly, can you please state your gender?

	Total (%)
	1,000
Male	53
Female	46
Non-binary/other	<1
Refused	<1

D3. Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?

	Total (%)
	1,000
Yes	11
No	89
Don't know/ref.	1

D4. What is your race? (Read list; accept multiple responses)

	Total (%)
	1,000
White or Caucasian	79
Black or African American	11
Native American or Alaskan Native	3
Asian	5
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	<1
Other	3
Refused (VOL)	2

D5. Which one of the following best describes your employment status? (Read list)

	Total (%)
	1,000
Self-employed full-time	6
Self-employed part-time	4
Employed full-time	23
Employed part-time	5
Retired and not working at all	48
Unemployed and looking for work	4
Not in the labor force for other reasons	9
Refused (VOL)	1

D6. What is your current marital status? (Read list)

	Total (%)
	1,000
Married	51
Not married, living with your partner or significant other	5
Separated	2
Divorced	16
Widowed	12
Currently single and never married	14
Refused (VOL)	1

D7. Which best describes the highest level of education you have completed or the highest degree you have received? (Read list)

	Total (%)
	1,000
0 to 12 th grade, but with no diploma	13
High school graduate or equivalent	30
Post high school education, but with no degree	15
2-year degree/Associate's	13
4-year degree/Bachelor's	14
Post graduate study, but with no degree	3
Graduate or professional degree/Master's/PhD/Law	12
Refused (VOL)	1

D8. In politics today, do you usually think of yourself as a(n)...? (Read list)

	Total (%)
	1,000
Republican	32
Democrat	40
Independent	21
Libertarian	1
Something else	5
Refused (VOL)	2



D9. In politics today, do you generally consider yourself to be Conservative, Moderate, or Liberal on most issues?

	Total (%)
	1,000
Conservative	38
Moderate	39
Liberal	19
Refused	5

D10. What type of health insurance coverage do you have? (Read list; accept multiple responses)

	Total (%)
	1,000
Medicare	44
Through your current employer	21
Individually purchased health insurance	15
Medicaid	14
Retiree benefit from your former employer	9
Through your spouse's current employer	8
Veterans' Administration / Military	5
Retiree benefit from your spouse's former employer	4
Other	4
You do not have health insurance (VOL)	3
Refused (VOL)	1

D11. Are you (if married: or your spouse) currently a member of A-A-R-P?

	Total (%)
	1,000
Yes	35
No	65
Refused	1

D12. Did you ever serve on active duty for the United States Armed Forces?

	Total (%)
	1,000
Yes	12
No	87
Refused	<1



D13a. Not including yourself, how many adults age 18 and older live in your household?
(CODED)

	Total (%)
	1,000
None	27
One	45
Two	19
Three or more	10
Refused	<1

D13b. And how many children under age 18 live in your household? (CODED)

	Total (%)
	1,000
None	88
One	8
Two	3
Three or more	1
Refused	<1

D14. Finally, just for statistical purposes, please tell me is your current annual HOUSEHOLD income before taxes? (Read list)

	Total (%)
	1,000
Less than \$30,000	30
\$30,000 to \$49,999	22
\$50,000 to \$74,999	16
\$75,000 to \$149,999	18
\$150,000 or more	6
Refused (VOL)	7