

Data Brief 333. Strategies Used by Adults Aged 18–64 to Reduce Their Prescription Drug Costs, 2017

Data table for Figure 1. Percentage of adults aged 18–64 who were prescribed medication in the past 12 months who used selected strategies to reduce prescription drug costs, by year: United States, 2013–2017

Strategy to reduce prescription drug cost and year	Percent (95% confidence interval)	Standard error
Asked doctor for a lower-cost medication		
2013	25.8 (24.8–26.8)	0.52
2014	22.2 (21.2–23.2)	0.50
2015	19.8 (18.8–20.8)	0.50
2016	20.0 (19.1–20.9)	0.46
2017	19.5 (18.6–20.5)	0.48
Did not take medication as prescribed		
2013	14.9 (14.2–15.7)	0.40
2014	12.4 (11.8–13.2)	0.36
2015	11.1 (10.4–11.8)	0.35
2016	10.9 (10.2–11.6)	0.34
2017	11.4 (10.7–12.2)	0.37
Used alternative therapies		
2013	5.8 (5.3–6.2)	0.24
2014	5.2 (4.8–5.7)	0.24
2015	4.8 (4.3–5.3)	0.23
2016	5.2 (4.8–5.7)	0.25
2017	5.4 (5.0–5.9)	0.24

NOTES: "Did not take medication as prescribed" is a composite measure that includes adults who "skipped medication doses," "took less medicine," or "delayed filling a prescription." See Definitions section for further details. A person may use more than one strategy to reduce prescription drug costs. Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2013–2017.

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Data table for Figure 2. Percentage of adults aged 18–64 who were prescribed medication in the past 12 months who asked their doctor for a lower-cost medication, by sex and health insurance status: United States, 2017

Characteristic	Percent (95% confidence interval)	Standard error
Total	19.5 (18.6–20.5)	0.47
Sex		
Men	16.4 (15.1–17.7)	0.66
Women	22.0 (20.8–23.3)	0.64
Health insurance status		
Private	18.0 (17.0–19.1)	0.54
Medicaid	15.7 (13.7–18.0)	1.09
Uninsured	39.5 (35.5–43.7)	2.09

NOTE: Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2017.

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Data table for Figure 3. Percentage of adults aged 18–64 who were prescribed medication in the past 12 months who did not take their medication as prescribed to reduce prescription drug costs, by sex and health insurance status: United States, 2017

Characteristic	Percent (95% confidence interval)	Standard error
Total	11.4 (10.7–12.2)	0.37
Sex		
Men	9.7 (8.7–10.7)	0.50
Women	12.7 (11.8–13.8)	0.50
Health insurance status		
Private	8.4 (7.7–9.2)	0.38
Medicaid	12.5 (10.6–14.8)	1.06
Uninsured	33.6 (29.5–37.9)	2.13

NOTES: "Did not take medication as prescribed" is a composite measure that includes adults who "skipped medication doses," "took less medicine," or "delayed filling a prescription." See Definitions section for further details. A person may use more than one strategy to reduce prescription drug costs. Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2017.

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Data table for Figure 4. Percentage of adults aged 18–64 who were prescribed medication in the past 12 months who used alternative therapies to reduce prescription drug costs, by sex and health insurance status: United States, 2017

Characteristic	Percent (95% confidence interval)	Standard error
Total	5.4 (5.0–5.9)	0.24
Sex		
Men	3.9 (3.3–4.6)	0.32
Women	6.6 (6.0–7.3)	0.35
Health insurance status		
Private	4.4 (4.0–5.0)	0.25
Medicaid	6.4 (5.0–8.1)	0.78
Uninsured	13.9 (11.3–17.0)	1.44

NOTE: Estimates are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2017.