

REPORT:

North Carolina Families Highly Concerned with Rising Healthcare Costs Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

A new survey of likely North Carolina voters

found a rapidly growing healthcare cost crisis. The results are staggering – hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians are unable to afford treatment for health problems or medications prescribed by a doctor. North Carolinians who lack health coverage often delay seeking care from the doctor. Cost barriers prevent them from getting treatment and being able to afford prescription drugs – all realities that could lead to worse health outcomes, especially during the pandemic.



KEY FINDINGS

Conducted by Global Strategy Group and released by West Health and ActionNC, this new survey exposes how many are feeling the devastating impacts of unaffordable and inaccessible healthcare – particularly during the pandemic:



Nearly 1,000,000 North Carolinians have **experienced the death of a friend or family member in the past 5 years** because they couldn't afford the necessary medical treatment for their illness.

1M
North Carolinians



Roughly 575,000 North Carolina families **have lost insurance coverage due to the economic shutdown brought on by the pandemic.**

575K
North Carolina Families



In the last year, over 2,000,000 North Carolina families **did not seek treatment for a health problem due to cost of care.**

2M
North Carolina Families



On balance, 47% of North Carolinians **prefer a public official who will prioritize bringing down healthcare costs** vs. 43% who would prefer a public official who will prioritize economic growth by cutting taxes and regulation.

47%
of North Carolinians



Roughly 2,100,000 **could not pay for drugs or medicine that a doctor prescribed.**

2.1M
North Carolinians

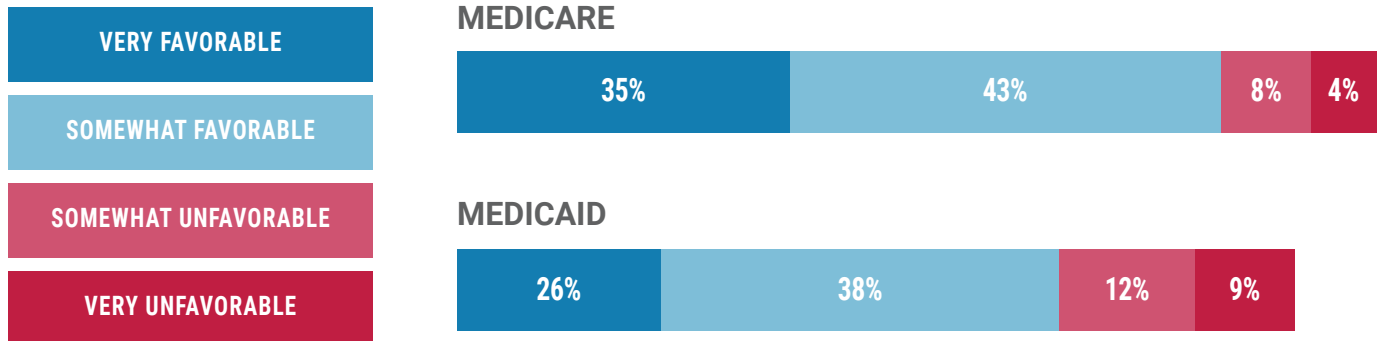


Healthcare costs are going up for over **3 out of 4 North Carolina families.**

75% of North Carolina Families

MEDICARE AND MEDICAID REMAIN POPULAR IN NORTH CAROLINA.

78% of North Carolina voters have a favorable view of Medicare (compared to 12% unfavorable) and 64% have a favorable view of Medicaid (compared to 21% unfavorable).



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North Carolinians are witnessing the perfect storm now, and we are not talking about another hurricane. This report reinforces the struggles that millions of North Carolinians have been experiencing in not being able to afford necessary medical treatment for their illness and prescription drugs, prior to Covid.

– NAOMI A. FOLAMI RANDOLPH - HWESUHUNU,
SENIOR ADVISOR FOR ACTION NC

For decades Americans have been promised lower healthcare costs, but these have largely been broken promises. People are frustrated and worried, and more importantly, they are getting sicker and even dying.

– TIM LASH, CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER
AT WEST HEALTH

METHODOLOGY

The findings are from a multi-channel survey of 600 likely general election voters in North Carolina between August 20 – 30, 2020. Interviews were conducted by live telephone and via web-based panel. Interviews conducted via web-based panel were matched back to a corresponding voter file. The confidence interval for the survey at 95% confidence interval overall is +/- 4% within each state.

ABOUT ACTION NC

Action NC's mission is to promote racial, gender, and economic equity through grassroots organizing, mobilization, and increased voter participation.

ABOUT WEST HEALTH

Solely funded by philanthropists Gary and Mary West, West Health is a family of nonprofit and nonpartisan organizations including the Gary and Mary West Foundation and Gary and Mary West Health Institute in San Diego, and the Gary and Mary West Health Policy Center in Washington, D.C. West Health is dedicated to lowering healthcare costs to enable seniors to successfully age in place with access to high-quality, affordable health and support services that preserve and protect their dignity, quality of life and independence. [Learn more at www.westhealth.org](http://www.westhealth.org) and follow @westhealth.

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