



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

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PRESS STATEMENT- For immediate release

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Advocates Release Survey of State Residents on Health Care Costs – Half Struggle to Pay for Health Care; Voice Strong Support for Change Across Parties

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut hosted the release of a statewide survey of adults on the high cost of health care. The survey was conducted by the nonpartisan Altarum Healthcare Value Hub earlier this year. It measured state residents' struggles to afford health care and opinions about what should be done.

“The survey found that half of Connecticut adults struggled to afford high health care costs and even larger numbers are concerned about paying for health care in the future,” said Lynn Quincy, director of Altarum’s Healthcare Value Hub. “It is not surprising that Connecticut residents are extremely dissatisfied with the health system and express strong support for change across party lines.”

Altarum’s Healthcare Value Hub wrote three policy briefs summarizing the findings of the survey. Two briefs were released today, and a third brief focused on prescription drug affordability was released in April.

The survey found that state residents:

- Avoided or delayed treatments and tests, cut pills in half or did not fill prescriptions because of cost concerns
- Had difficulty paying their medical bills
- Worried about affording health care in the future
- Had trouble navigating the complex health care system, including dealing with surprise medical bills

Residents were also asked about possible strategies to address these affordability concerns. They expressed strong support, across party lines, for a variety of bold solutions.

“It is clear that people want our state policymakers to take action,” said Jill Zorn, senior policy officer at Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut. “Too many people are making tough choices about getting the care they need because of high costs.”

Ted Doolittle, Office of the Healthcare Advocate, offered perspective on the survey findings, “One of the things that binds together most Americans from all races, all walks of life, and all political persuasions is our profound shared worry about how to pay for healthcare and health insurance. A community problem as big and deep as healthcare affordability can only be solved if every one of us contributes. This includes our healthcare industries – hospitals, drug manufacturers and distributors, and our health insurers – and, yes, ordinary citizens and consumers.”

The three briefs are attached and can be found electronically [here](#):

- *Connecticut Residents Struggle to Afford High Healthcare Costs; Support a Range of Government Solutions Across Party Lines*
- *Difficulty Navigating Cost Obligations Adds to Healthcare Affordability Woes in Connecticut*
- *Connecticut Residents Worried about High Drug Costs—Express Bipartisan Support for a Range of Government Solutions*

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The Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut is dedicated to achieving universal access to quality and affordable health care and to promoting health in Connecticut. We envision a health care system that is accountable and responsive to the people it serves.

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Healthcare Value Hub provides free, timely information about the policies and practices that address high healthcare costs and poor quality, bringing better value to consumers. The Hub is part of Altarum, a nonprofit organization with the mission of creating a better, more sustainable future for all Americans by applying research-based and field-tested solutions that transform our systems of health and healthcare.