



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

Foundation of Connecticut

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New Nonpartisan Connecticut Voter Survey Shows 78% Worry about Affording Health Care - Exposes Stark Disparities by Race and Ethnicity

Two briefs from the national nonpartisan Altarum Healthcare Value Hub expose stark health care disparities, particularly for Black, Asian/Native American/Pacific Islanders and Latinx state residents. The reports summarize results from the Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey (CHESS) which measures respondents' concerns about health care affordability and quality and seeks opinions on needed changes. This year's survey, the first since May 2020, collected race and ethnicity data, allowing for a deeper understanding of health disparities.

The Connecticut-specific briefs were released by Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut. "It's clear that state residents face multiple barriers to affordable, quality care they can rely on. People of color, low- and moderate-income households, and people living with a disability are hit hardest," said Jill Zorn, Senior Policy Officer at Universal. "These gaps are unacceptable, and people want action."

Katia Ruesta-Daley, graduate student and immigrant activist responded to the briefs, "As immigrants, my family has experienced firsthand the disparities these reports touch on. From lack of interpretation services for my father, to bearing pain from an injury I suffered because we couldn't afford to get care – none of this should happen here in Connecticut. This brief proves too many others have similar stories of unequal care."

"The survey shows Connecticut residents are very concerned about healthcare affordability. It found that even when respondents got the care they needed, one third of Connecticut adults (33%) struggled to pay the resulting bill," said Beth Beaudin-Seiler, director of Altarum's Healthcare Value Hub. "The data also signaled widespread support across party lines for potential policy solutions."

Key findings include:

- 78% of Connecticut respondents worry about affording health care now or in the future
- 69% of Black respondents reported one or more affordability challenges in the past year – a much higher rate than reported by white respondents (48%)
- 14% of white respondents went without needed care due to distrust of/disrespect by a healthcare provider – and rates were much higher among Black (36%), Asian/Native American/Pacific Islander (44%) and Latinx (34%) people

(continued)

- There is overwhelming support for government to address affordability challenges – with strongest support for action to curb high prescription drug prices and to expand health insurance options so that everyone can afford quality coverage

Links to the reports:

- [Data Brief 133: Connecticut Residents Struggle to Afford High Healthcare Costs; Worry about Affording Healthcare in the Future; Support Government Action across Party Lines](#)
- [Data Brief 134: Connecticut Residents Bear Healthcare Affordability Burdens Unequally; Distrust of/Disrespect by Healthcare Providers Leads Some to Delay/Go Without Needed Care](#)
- Data briefs from 2020 and 2018 surveys can be found [HERE](#)

About the Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey (CHESS)

The Healthcare Value Hub's Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey (CHESS) is designed to elicit respondents' unbiased views on a wide range of health system issues, including confidence using the health system, financial burden, and views on policy solutions.

About the Healthcare Value Hub

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Arnold Ventures, 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 that works with federal and state agencies and foundations to design and implement solutions to improve the health of individuals with fewer financial resources and populations disenfranchised by the health care system.

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To accelerate the movement for health justice for everybody because health is a human right and core to social justice and equity.*