



1,000 registered voters in Colorado
including a sample of 250 in the City of Denver and 250 in the City of Aurora
Field: January 5-13, 2022

Colorado Prescription Medicine Affordability Poll — January 2022

Hello, I’m calling from **XXX**. I’m not selling anything. We’re doing a survey here in Colorado on some topics that I’m sure you will find interesting.

2. Are you registered to vote in Colorado / the City of Denver / the City of Aurora?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Yes	100%	100%	100%
No	—	—	—

3. On the voter rolls, are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, or are you Unaffiliated with any party?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Democrat	29%	46%	36%
Unaffiliated / No Party / Independent	44%	43%	45%
Republican	26%	11%	18%
Other Party	1%	1%	1%

4. Generally speaking, would you say that Colorado is heading in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Right direction	51%	67%	58%
Wrong direction.....	36%	23%	29%
Don’t know / not sure	13%	10%	13%

5. Which **ONE** of the following is your biggest concern when it comes to health care?

Randomize and read responses.

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Out of pocket costs, such as copays, deductibles and out-of-network charges.....	23%	23%	19%
The cost of health insurance premiums.....	20%	22%	20%
The cost of hospital services	19%	17%	20%
The cost of prescription medicines	13%	14%	14%
Limited options for health care coverage	9%	8%	10%
Other concern.....	10%	11%	11%
Don’t know / not sure Don’t read	6%	6%	6%

Rotate the order of questions 6 and 7.

6. When it comes to the cost of prescription medicines, do you think that Governor Jared Polis should do more or is he doing enough to reduce the cost of prescription medicines?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Should do more	53%	52%	51%
Is doing enough	17%	17%	20%
Should do less.....	2%	3%	3%
Don't know / not sure	28%	28%	26%

7. When it comes to the cost of prescription medicines, do you think that the Colorado state legislature should do more or are they doing enough to reduce the cost of prescription medicines?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Should do more	61%	55%	59%
Are doing enough	14%	17%	16%
Should do less.....	3%	3%	4%
Don't know / not sure	22%	25%	21%

Now I'd like to ask you about some proposals concerning health insurance premiums and prescription medicine costs. **Rotate the order of question series 8 through 11 and 12 through 14.**

8. Health insurance companies often negotiate discounts or rebates with prescription drug manufacturers. Health insurance companies could use these discounts or rebates to reduce the cost that patients pay for their prescription medicines, but it's not required that insurers do so.

Do you support or oppose — a state law that would require health insurance companies to use these rebates or discounts to reduce the cost that patients pay for their prescription medicines?

If respondent says support, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat support this proposal?

If respondent says oppose, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat oppose this proposal?

If respondent says don't know, ask: Do you lean toward supporting or opposing this proposal?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
SUPPORT	80%	79%	83%
OPPOSE	14%	15%	12%
Difference	+66%	+64%	+71%
Support – strongly	58%	58%	64%
Support – somewhat	20%	17%	17%
Support – lean	2%	4%	2%
Oppose – strongly.....	9%	10%	8%
Oppose – somewhat.....	4%	4%	4%
Oppose – lean.....	*%	*%	*%
Don't know / not sure	6%	6%	5%

Now I'd like to read some additional details about the proposal that would require health insurance companies to use the rebates or discounts they receive from prescription drug manufacturers to reduce the cost that patients pay for their prescription medicines. **Randomize the order of questions 9 – 11.**

9. **PREMIUMS INCREASE BY \$3:** Do you support or oppose — a state law that would require health insurance companies to use these rebates or discounts to reduce the cost that patients pay for their prescription medicines — if that meant health insurance premiums would increase by three dollars per month on average?

If respondent says support, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat support this proposal?

If respondent says oppose, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat oppose this proposal?

If respondent says don't know, ask: Do you lean toward supporting or opposing this proposal?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
SUPPORT	61%	69%	70%
OPPOSE	32%	26%	26%
Difference	+29%	+43%	+44%
Support – strongly	33%	35%	43%
Support – somewhat	24%	30%	25%
Support – lean	3%	4%	3%
Oppose – strongly	19%	15%	18%
Oppose – somewhat	11%	9%	7%
Oppose – lean	2%	2%	1%
Don't know / not sure	7%	6%	4%

10. **MEDICARE PART D:** Do you support or oppose — requiring health insurance companies to use these rebates or discounts to reduce the cost that patients pay for their prescription medicines — if it is implemented in Medicare Part D, so seniors have lower out-of-pocket costs for their prescription medicines?

If respondent says support, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat support this proposal?

If respondent says oppose, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat oppose this proposal?

If respondent says don't know, ask: Do you lean toward supporting or opposing this proposal?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
SUPPORT	84%	85%	86%
OPPOSE	10%	9%	11%
Difference	+74%	+76%	+75%
Support – strongly	60%	62%	65%
Support – somewhat	23%	21%	19%
Support – lean	1%	2%	2%
Oppose – strongly	7%	7%	6%
Oppose – somewhat	3%	1%	4%
Oppose – lean	*%	*%	*%
Don't know / not sure	6%	6%	4%

11. **CHRONIC ILLNESSES:** Do you support or oppose — a state law that would require health insurance companies to use these rebates or discounts to reduce the cost that patients pay for their prescription medicines — if that meant out-of-pocket costs for prescription medicines for patients with cancer, diabetes, or other chronic illnesses could be reduced by about one thousand dollars per year on average?

If respondent says support, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat support this proposal?

If respondent says oppose, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat oppose this proposal?

If respondent says don't know, ask: Do you lean toward supporting or opposing this proposal?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
SUPPORT	82%	86%	88%
OPPOSE	12%	10%	9%
Difference	+70%	+76%	+79%
Support – strongly	61%	63%	69%
Support – somewhat	19%	20%	17%
Support – lean	1%	2%	1%
Oppose – strongly	8%	8%	5%
Oppose – somewhat	4%	2%	4%
Oppose – lean	*%	*%	*%
Don't know / not sure	6%	4%	3%

12. Third parties often provide patient assistance, such as co-pay coupons, to help cover the cost of prescription medicines for patients. Recently, many health insurers have stopped allowing this assistance to count toward patient deductibles. As a result, once a patient has used all of their assistance, the patient is responsible for the full price of their prescription medicines until they reach their deductible.

Do you support or oppose — a state law that would require health insurance companies to count patient assistance, such as co-pay coupons, toward the patient's deductible?

If respondent says support, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat support this proposal?

If respondent says oppose, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat oppose this proposal?

If respondent says don't know, ask: Do you lean toward supporting or opposing this proposal?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
SUPPORT	72%	74%	74%
OPPOSE	18%	18%	21%
Difference	+54%	+56%	+53%
Support – strongly	45%	49%	51%
Support – somewhat	24%	21%	20%
Support – lean	3%	4%	3%
Oppose – strongly	12%	12%	12%
Oppose – somewhat	6%	6%	8%
Oppose – lean	*%	—	1%
Don't know / not sure	10%	8%	5%

Now I'd like to read some additional details about this proposal that would require health insurance companies to count patient assistance, such as co-pay coupons, toward the patient's deductible. After I read each, please tell me whether that statement makes you support or oppose this proposal. **Randomize order of questions 13 – 14.**

13. **LOWER INCOME:** Do you support or oppose — a state law that would require health insurance companies to count patient assistance, such as co-pay coupons, toward the patient's deductible — if it helps lower income families pay for their prescription medicine?

If respondent says support, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat support this proposal?

If respondent says oppose, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat oppose this proposal?

If respondent says don't know, ask: Do you lean toward supporting or opposing this proposal?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
SUPPORT	81%	88%	85%
OPPOSE	13%	8%	11%
Difference	+68%	+80%	+74%
Support – strongly	59%	65%	66%
Support – somewhat	20%	21%	19%
Support – lean	1%	2%	1%
Oppose – strongly.....	8%	6%	7%
Oppose – somewhat.....	5%	2%	4%
Oppose – lean.....	*%	—	*%
Don't know / not sure	6%	4%	4%

14. **SPECIALTY PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES:** Do you support or oppose — a state law that would require health insurance companies to count patient assistance, such as co-pay coupons, toward the patient's deductible — if it helps patients who need more expensive specialty prescription medicines for rare or chronic conditions pay for their prescription medicines?

If respondent says support, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat support this proposal?

If respondent says oppose, ask: Do you strongly or somewhat oppose this proposal?

If respondent says don't know, ask: Do you lean toward supporting or opposing this proposal?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
SUPPORT	81%	87%	85%
OPPOSE	12%	9%	12%
Difference	+69%	+78%	+73%
Support – strongly	60%	68%	65%
Support – somewhat	19%	17%	18%
Support – lean	1%	2%	1%
Oppose – strongly.....	8%	6%	7%
Oppose – somewhat.....	5%	2%	5%
Oppose – lean.....	*%	*%	—
Don't know / not sure	7%	5%	4%

15. Which *ONE* of the following policies do you think will help patients the most?

Randomize and read responses.

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Require health insurance companies to pass along to patients the discounts they receive so that patients pay less for their prescription medicines.....	42%	41%	46%
Establish a government board to set prices for prescription medicines	18%	21%	16%
Allow state government to import non-FDA approved prescription medicines from other countries	16%	15%	16%
Require health insurance companies to count patient assistance toward the patient’s deductible	15%	14%	15%
Don’t know / not sure	9%	10%	7%

Randomize the order of questions 16 and 17.

16. And which of the following two statements do you agree with more? **Read and rotate the order of the statements.**

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Lawmakers should pass laws that reduce the cost of prescription medicines for patients with chronic and life-threatening diseases, even if that means health insurance premiums increase by three dollars per month	59%	68%	63%
OR,			
Lawmakers should not pass any laws that increase health insurance premiums, even if it’s only three dollars more per month	30%	22%	30%
Don’t know / not sure	11%	9%	7%

17. Thinking specifically about your health insurance coverage, which is the most important to you? **Read and rotate the order of the statements.**

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Paying lower out-of-pocket costs such as – copays, deductibles and co-insurance – for your medicines	57%	57%	58%
OR,			
Paying a lower premium each month	32%	35%	34%
Don’t know / not sure	11%	8%	8%

And finally, just a few questions for statistical purposes only...

D20. How would you describe your gender?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Male.....	48%	48%	48%
Female.....	52%	52%	52%

D21. Could you please tell me your age?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
18-24.....	8%	9%	9%
25-29.....	9%	16%	10%
30-34.....	10%	12%	13%
35-39.....	11%	11%	12%
40-44.....	8%	12%	10%
45-49.....	7%	6%	5%
50-54.....	9%	7%	8%
55-59.....	7%	4%	7%
60-64.....	9%	7%	7%
65-69.....	7%	5%	7%
70+.....	15%	11%	12%

D22. Could you please tell me if your family’s total income is?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Under \$25,000.....	10%	9%	6%
\$25,000 up to \$49,999.....	15%	13%	15%
\$50,000 up to \$74,999.....	20%	25%	19%
\$75,000 up to \$99,999.....	20%	17%	18%
\$100,000 up to \$149,999.....	13%	13%	15%
\$150,000 or more.....	12%	15%	13%
Don't know / refused.....	11%	8%	13%

D23. Are you currently covered by any form of health insurance? **If not sure, read:** A health plan would include any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid.

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Yes, insured.....	92%	93%	92%
No, uninsured.....	7%	6%	6%
Don't know / refused.....	1%	2%	2%

Ask D24 if insured in D23.

D24. Which of the following best describes your main source of health insurance? **Read list until respondent answers.**

	Statewide <i>n=916</i>	Denver <i>n=231</i>	Aurora <i>n=229</i>
Plan through your employer	46%	50%	49%
Plan through your spouse’s employer.....	8%	7%	9%
Plan through your parents	5%	4%	6%
Plan you purchased yourself	9%	8%	8%
Medicare.....	20%	14%	17%
Medicaid/health first Colorado	7%	10%	7%
Military/veteran’s administration	3%	1%	3%
Other.....	2%	5%	2%
Don't know / refused.....	1%	1%	*%

D25. **If male in D20 say:** Do you currently take any PRESCRIPTION medicine regularly?

If female or prefer to self-describe in D20 say: Other than birth control, do you currently take any PRESCRIPTION medicine regularly?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Yes, takes a prescription regularly	53%	49%	50%
No, does not take a prescription regularly.....	45%	47%	48%
Don’t know / refused.....	2%	4%	3%

D26. In a typical MONTH, what is the average dollar amount YOU spend on prescription medicines, that is your own out-of-pocket costs?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
\$0, nothing.....	34%	40%	30%
\$1 up to \$25.....	19%	20%	22%
\$26 up to \$50.....	15%	11%	16%
More than \$50.....	18%	15%	17%
Don’t know / refused.....	13%	15%	16%

D27. And do you or anyone in your household have trouble affording health insurance?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Yes, has trouble affording health insurance.....	20%	20%	14%
No	79%	78%	83%
Don’t know / refused.....	2%	2%	2%

D28. And do you or anyone in your household have trouble affording prescription medications?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Yes, has trouble affording prescription medications	20%	16%	12%
No	78%	83%	87%
Don't know / refused.....	2%	2%	2%

D29. In the past five years, have you declined care or treatment that was recommended by your doctor due to the following? **Randomize the order and read the responses. Multiple response question.**

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
The cost of the treatment would be too expensive.....	24%	25%	21%
The insurance company denied coverage of the treatment.	13%	13%	13%
The treatment location was too far away or you couldn't access transportation	8%	7%	6%
Other.....	3%	2%	2%
No, have not declined care or treatment.....	63%	64%	69%

D30. What is the last grade or level of school that you have completed?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Less than high school degree	1%	2%	2%
High school graduate.....	14%	16%	15%
Some college / 2-year degree / Associates degree	27%	19%	19%
College graduate / BA or BS degree	38%	39%	39%
Postgraduate courses / Masters or Doctoral degree	18%	22%	22%
Don't know / refused.....	2%	1%	3%

D31. How would you describe your ethnicity?

	Statewide	Denver	Aurora
Hispanic / Latino	10%	15%	15%
White	79%	70%	62%
Black / African American	3%	8%	14%
Asian	1%	*%	1%
Native American / American Indian	1%	2%	1%
Other.....	2%	2%	3%
Prefer not to say	4%	3%	4%

Survey Method

The **Colorado Prescription Medicine Affordability Poll — January 2022** results are based on a sample of 1,000 live-interviewer telephone surveys (908 cell-phone interviews and 92 land-line interviews) among registered voters in Colorado. The poll was conducted from January 5-13, 2022 by Keating Research.

The sample of 1,000 respondents includes an oversample of 250 respondents in the City of Denver and 250 respondents in the City of Aurora. The results in this poll are weighted to accurately represent the distribution of registered voters based on party registration, gender, age, region and ethnicity.

The worst-case margin of error at the 95% level for the full sample of 1,000 respondents is plus or minus 3.1%. The worst-case margin of error at the 95% level for the sample of 250 in the City of Denver and the City of Aurora is plus or minus 6.2%.