

REPORT:

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

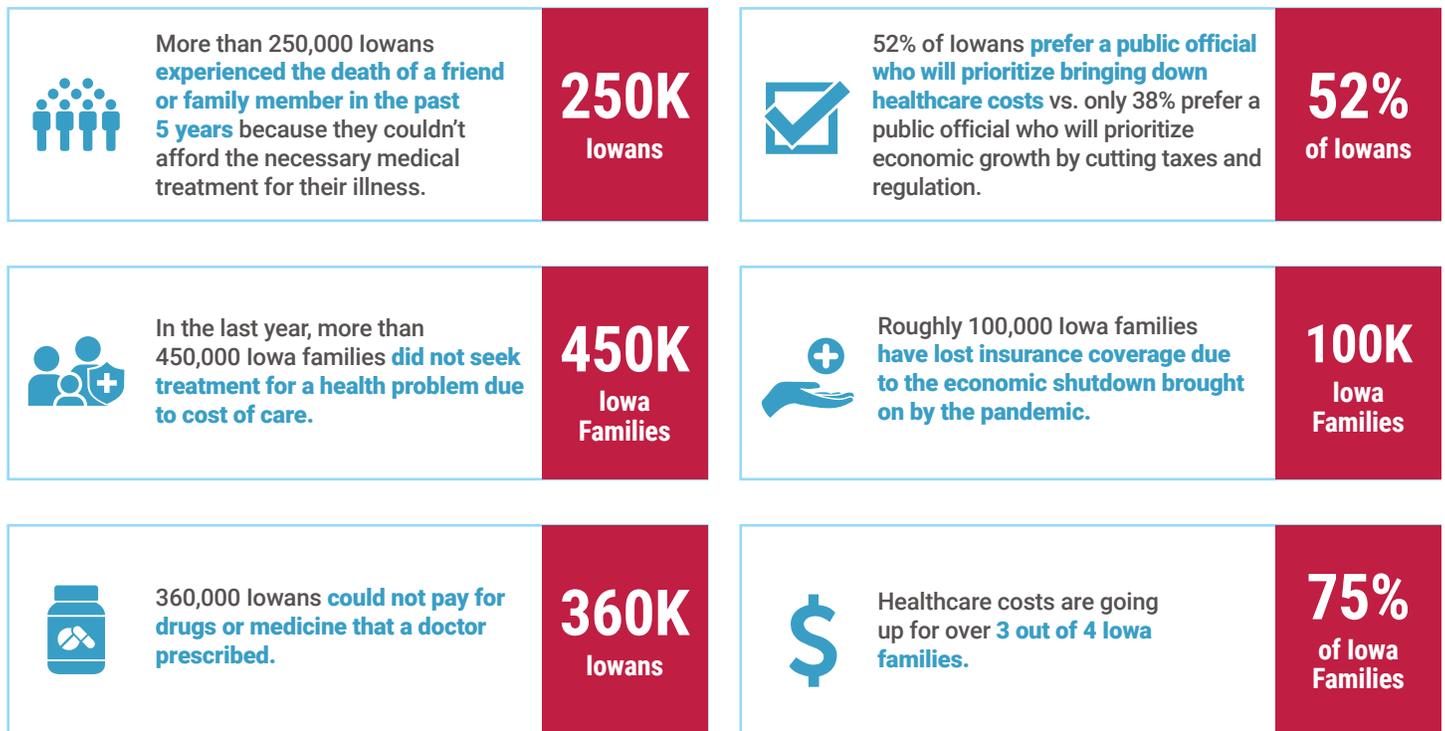
A new survey of likely Iowa voters

found a rapidly growing healthcare cost crisis. The results are staggering – hundreds of thousands of Iowans are unable to afford treatment for health problems or medications prescribed by a doctor. Iowans 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.



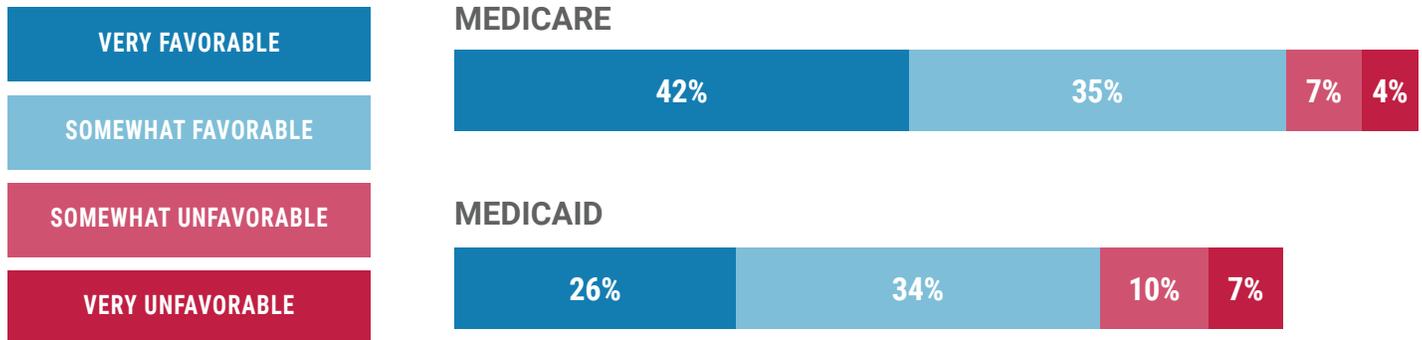
KEY FINDINGS

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



MEDICARE AND MEDICAID REMAIN POPULAR IN IOWA.

77% of Iowa voters have a favorable view of Medicare (compared to 11% unfavorable) and 60% have a favorable view of Medicaid (compared to 17% unfavorable).



No matter where people live, what they look like or what's in their wallets, at some point everyone is going to get sick and need medication and health care. Iowans can't go back to the days when insurers could impose higher premiums on people with pre-existing conditions, or even worse, deny them coverage.

– SUE DINSDALE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IOWA CITIZEN ACTION NETWORK

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 Iowa 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 ICAN

Iowa Citizen Action Network (ICAN) is a grassroots public interest organization committed to creating social change in Iowa and across the nation. ICAN has united Iowa's progressives for more than 40 years. ICAN works in coalition with organizational affiliates from a wide range of constituencies, including religious, community, labor, senior, family farm and health advocacy organizations as well as with our thousands of individual members.

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](https://twitter.com/westhealth).

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