

by CUE Cochrane USA a year ago

Drug Pricing in the US



CUE Cochrane USA
@United4Evidence

Welcome to the #AskCUE Twitter Chat on Drug Pricing in the US! We are w
@ConsumerReports -- thank you for being here!

A YEAR AGO



CUE Cochrane USA
@United4Evidence

We are excited to ask you questions on behalf of consumers & to hear ur answers. Other
patients/consumers/ind r welcome to join in! #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO



Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

Hello @United4Evidence. We're very pleased to be here today, joining this very important
discussion about drug pricing. #AskCUE

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Julie Childers
@jkchilders

Curious about Epipen pricing controversy? #ASKCUE @United4Evidence
twitter.com/UScochrane/sta...

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Chap 1. I. General Drug Pricing: how does it work

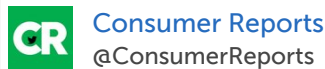
Q1.



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Q1. To kick things off, @ConsumerReports, can you generally describe the drug pricing situation
as it stands now? #AskCUE

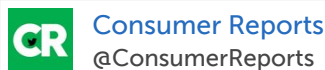
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Consumer Reports
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A1: Definitely. After drugmaker Mylan purchased EpiPen back in 2007, the company started to increase the price year after year. [#askcue](#)

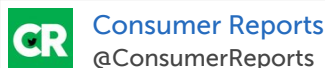
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Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

A1: All told, the company hiked the price — between 400 and 500 percent in less than a decade. That's a drastic increase. [#AskCUE](#)

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Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

A1: That's a drastic increase for a decades-old drug that costs literally pennies to make. [#AskCUE](#)

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Q2.



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Q2. How do pharmaceutical companies set prices for drugs they produce? [@ConsumerReports](#)
[#AskCUE](#)

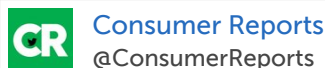
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Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

A2: That's a good question, [@United4Evidence](#) — and you may hear a variety of answers. [#AskCUE](#)

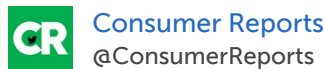
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Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

A2: But the truth is, pharmaceutical companies can set any price they want for drugs, and then raise those prices by any amount. [#AskCUE](#)

A YEAR AGO



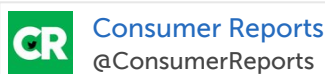
A2: There is really no basis for these price increases, and no transparency. #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO



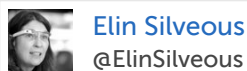
A2. We enjoyed this article by @ConsumerReports on fixing drug prices and found it helpful goo.gl/Zs4nUL #AskCUE @AnnieAppleseed

A YEAR AGO



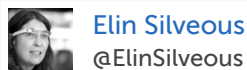
A2: Mylan has attributed its pricing to changes in the "insurance landscape" as more people enroll in high-deductible plans #AskCUE

A YEAR AGO



A2. Most likely as part of the four P's: Product, Price, Place, Promotion. #AskCUE twitter.com/united4evidenc...

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Access to #NNT (Number Needed to Treat) info would be helpful for consumers & patients. #askCUE twitter.com/nc4hr/status/7...

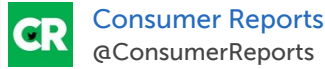
A YEAR AGO

Q3.



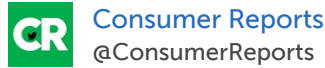
Q3. What are some of the direct results of drug price increases on consumers? #AskCUE @ConsumerReports

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A3: In the case of EpiPen, we've heard from many consumers who are struggling to afford this medication. #AskCUE

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@United4Evidence A3: For example, many parents rely on this drug to keep their children alive in an emergency. #AskCUE

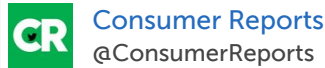
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Q4.



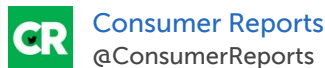
Why don't more consumers use generic drugs? #askCUE

A YEAR AGO



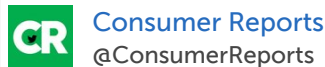
@UScochrane Consumers fill more than 85% of Rx's with generic drugs. #askcue

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@UScochrane Although and hundreds of generics have also shot up in price. #askcue

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@UScochrane There are fewer generic mfgs these days for some very old drugs = increase in prices. #askcue

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**Consumer Reports**

@ConsumerReports

[@United4Evidence](#) A4: Definitely not an isolated situation. Consumers are greatly impacted by rising drug prices. [#AskCUE](#)



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**Our Bodies Ourselves**

@oboshealth

Great Q&A on drug pricing happening NOW! Tweet your question to [#ASKCUE](#)
[@ConsumerReports](#) [twitter.com/UScochrane/sta...](#)



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**Consumer Reports**

@ConsumerReports

[@United4Evidence](#) A4: Accord'g to our recent poll, they are putting off paying other bills, even skimping on food - to afford meds. [#AskCUE](#)



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**NCHR**

@NC4HR

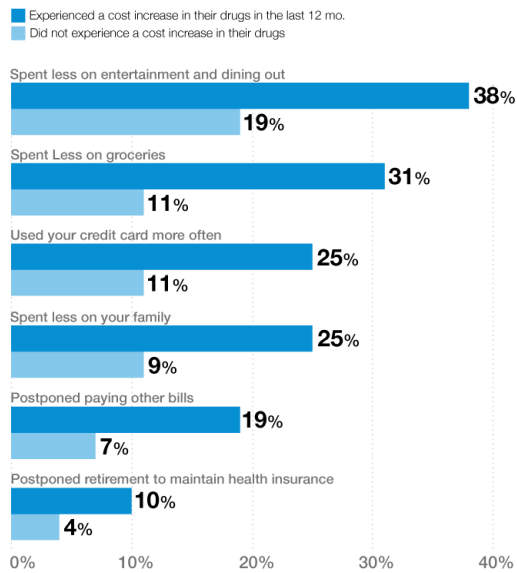
When drugs that are not proven to work cost \$300,000, we all pay. [#AskCUE](#)
[@ConsumerReports](#) [@United4Evidence](#) [ow.ly/iohY304Jd7b](#)



A YEAR AGO

WHEN DRUG PRICES RISE, QUALITY OF LIFE GOES DOWN

Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs conducted a nationally representative telephone poll of 4,015 adult Americans in March 2016. We found that 45 percent of people regularly take a prescription drug and on average take between four and five medications. To afford those, people made adjustments in household spending (see light blue bar below). But for the three in 10 people (29 percent) who reported that they paid more money out of pocket for at least one of their drugs over the prior 12 months, the budget crunch was more dramatic (see darker blue bar).



Source: Consumer Reports Best Buy Drugs Tracking Poll 7, conducted March 10-27, 2016
* Percentages won't add up to 100 because people were able to report multiple actions taken

[@United4Evidence](#) A4: Here you'll see just a handful of examples of how high drug prices impact consumers. [#AskCUE pic.twitter.com/7lYwjDYTfa](#)

CONSUMER REPORTS [@CONSUMERREPORTS](#) · A YEAR AGO



Consumer Reports
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[@United4Evidence](#) A4: Consumers also skip filling their Rx's, skip doses, take expired meds, and even share meds -- all b/c of costs. [#AskCUE](#)

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Consumer Reports
[@ConsumerReports](#)

[@United4Evidence](#) A4: Here's more from our recent poll on how high drug prices harm consumers. [consumerreports.org/drugs/as-drug-...](#) [#AskCUE](#)

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Chap. 2 [#EpiPen](#): What's the controversy?

Q5.



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Q5. @ConsumerReports What are drug companies doing to ease the burden on consumers?
@NC4HR @AnnieAppleseed #AskCUE

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@United4Evidence @NC4HR @AnnieAppleseed A5: Some drug companies offer co-pay coupons and prescription assistance programs. #AskCUE

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@United4Evidence @NC4HR @AnnieAppleseed A5: For example, Mylan is offering a \$300 co-pay coupon #AskCUE

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@United4Evidence @NC4HR @AnnieAppleseed A5: But the fact of the matter is, the coupon won't bring costs down for everyone. #AskCUE

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@United4Evidence A5: And the patient assistance program is only valid for uninsured patients who meet income requirements. #AskCUE


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@United4Evidence @NC4HR @AnnieAppleseed A5: For EpiPen, the bottom line is: we're talking about a cheap drug that shouldn't be \$600+ #AskCUE


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 **Consumer Reports**
@ConsumerReports


[@United4Evidence](#) [@NC4HR](#) [@AnnieAppleseed](#) A5: This is prohibitive pricing. #AskCUE


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Q6.


 **Kay Dickersin**
@KayDickersin


Q6 What are some things consumers can do to lower the amount they pay for drugs?
[@ConsumerReports](#) #askCUE

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 **Consumer Reports**
@ConsumerReports

[@KayDickersin](#) A6: People should start by talking to their doctor about cheaper alternatives. In many cases, this will be a generic #askcue


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 **Consumer Reports**
@ConsumerReports


[@KayDickersin](#) A6: And shop around b4 filling that Rx. CR's secret shoppers have found that prices vary from one pharmacy to the next #AskCUE


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Q7. miscellaneous


 **Helen Haskell**
@hhask

What about people paying high prices for drugs not likely to help? NNT site has info on some drug therapies #askcue [thennt.com](#)

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 **Consumer Reports**
@ConsumerReports

[@United4Evidence](#) A7: Patients should always talk to their M.D. about alternatives, taking into consider cost, safety, effectiveness. #AskCUE

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Elin Silveous
@ElinSilveous

#ePatients --> #askCUE || #HCCosts [twitter.com/oboshealth/sta...](https://twitter.com/oboshealth/status/7111111111)

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Elin Silveous
@ElinSilveous

Here's a link to folks focusing on #NNT thennt.com #askCUE #InformedConsumers [twitter.com/hhask/status/7...](https://twitter.com/hhask/status/7111111111)

A YEAR AGO

Chap 3. Consumer advocacy and conflicts of interest

]

Q8



Kay Dickersin
@KayDickersin

Q8 How do we keep this issue in the public eye?The media tends to move on and then we are left high and dry @ConsumerReports #askcue

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@KayDickersin A8: Education. CR actively provides info to consumers on how to avoid paying too much for Rx's consumerreports.org/cro/health/pre... #AskCUE

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@KayDickersin A8: We also ask consumers to keep sharing their stories. This can help us advance change! stori.es/share/share-yo... #AskCUE

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Q9.

 **Helen Haskell**
@hhask


Is the Medicare Part D prescription benefit law the reason drug prices are out of control?
cnbc.com/2016/09/29/con...


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Q10.


 **Helen Haskell**
@hhask

Medicare Part D mandates drug coverage but forbids negotiating prices. Is this at the root of the problem? #askcue cbsnews.com/news/did-landm...


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 **CUE Cochrane USA**
@United4Evidence


Fantastic answers, @ConsumerReports ! Any questions 4 us abt consumer advocacy in drug pricing? #AskCUE @jkchilders @AnnieAppleseed @NC4HR


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Q11.

 **Consumer Reports**
@ConsumerReports

@United4Evidence @jkchilders Yes! Q11: Some consumer grps are funded from industry. What does this mean for drugs they advocate for? #AskCUE

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 **CUE Cochrane USA**
@United4Evidence

A11. #AskCUE The recent Musc dyst. drug approved by FDA shows how pharma can use pt power to advocate their own interests @ConsumerReports

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@United4Evidence

A11. Consumer orgs w CoI's (ie majority funding from industry) can risk the credibility of all consumers #AskCUE @ConsumerReports

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@United4Evidence

A11. ow.ly/n2sv3o4GvXp #ASKCUE @nytimes @ConsumerReports

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Q12



Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

@jkchilders @AnnieAppleseed @NC4HR Q12: How can consumer advocacy gps make sure they're working in the interest of their community #AskCUE

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A12. Consumer groups should try to not take a majority of funding from industry #AskCUE @ConsumerReports

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@United4Evidence

A 12. When consumer orgs become knowledge-based, not disease-based, & should learn about evidence-based healthcare #AskCUE @ConsumerReports

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Q13.



Consumer Reports
@ConsumerReports

@United4Evidence @jkchilders @AnnieAppleseed @NC4HR Q13: How can consumers use their power to restrict high costs of drugs? #AskCUE

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CUE Cochrane USA
@United4Evidence

A13. Ind. consumers should also become knowledge-based, and look at the evidence before advocating for anything. [#AskCUE @ConsumerReports](#)

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A 13. CUE has lots of free and easy access resources for consumers! us.cochrane.org/CUE
[#AskCUE @ConsumerReports](#)

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For more on battling high Rx drug prices, consumers should check out [@ConsumerReports'](#) resources as well consumerreports.org/cro/health/pre... [#AskCUE](#)

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[#AskCUE @ConsumerReports](#) Wow one hour gone already!! Feel free to continue the discussion on the CUE Facebook page facebook.com/groups/2070224...

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CUE Cochrane USA
@United4Evidence

Thank you for participating in the [#AskCUE](#) Chat!! And thank you [@ConsumerReports](#) for a great discussion! Look out for our Storify!!

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@ConsumerReports

[@United4Evidence](#) Thank you for again for inviting us to participate in this imp't conversation on the impact of rising Rx prices! [#AskCUE](#)

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**Consumer Reports**

@ConsumerReports

@United4Evidence Thank you! #askcue



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**Elin Silveous**

@ElinSilveous

@United4Evidence Thank you for an interesting #AskCUE chat on medication costs.



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**Consumer Reports**

@ConsumerReports

Echoing here with TY's to @AnnieAppleseed @ElinSilveous @jkhilders @KayDickersin @NC4HR @hhask @UScochrane @oboshealth #askcue



A YEAR AGO

**Elin Silveous**

@ElinSilveous

.@ConsumerReports Thank you for an interesting #askCUE chat on medication pricing. Have a super weekend.



A YEAR AGO

**Helen Haskell**

@hhask

#askcue! twitter.com/hhask/status/7...



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