## The Cost of Prescription Drugs: Georgia Profile

Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, seniors in Georgia will now have their prescription drug costs capped at $2,000 per year! According to AARP, that will help **101,650 Georgians** in 2025 – nearly 10 percent of seniors - and is estimated to grow to 129,020 Georgians in 2029.[[1]](#footnote-1)

However, many Georgians are still left exposed to high out of pocket costs for their prescription drugs. In fact, 2,282 Georgians have reached out to the Office of Senator Warnock urging action on lowering prescription drug costs.

*“I can’t afford more than one expensive prescription at a time. My doctor wants to put me on other prescriptions as well, but I can’t afford them, so I won’t be able to get them! My Ozempic prescription already costs me more than $250 a month!”* – Brenda from Lawrenceville, GA

According to the Georgia All-Payer Claims Database (APCD), Georgians on average spend $2,437 per year on prescription drugs.[[2]](#footnote-2) And a survey of Georgia adults found that 55 percent are “somewhat worried” or “very worried” about affording the cost of prescription drugs, with **38 percent of Georgians also rationing or skipping medication due to high cost**.[[3]](#footnote-3)

*“I have COPD and I cannot afford the inhalers I need for breathing at $150 each.”* – Kimberly from Summerville, GA

The *Capping Prescription Costs Act* would extend the $2,000 cap from the Inflation Reduction Act to the commercial market, so that more Georgians can afford their essential medicine. Families with commercial insurance would have their costs capped at $4,000 annually. These caps apply to both group health plans and marketplace health plans. Nationwide, 173 million people under age 65 have private health insurance, either from an employer plan (155 million) or the non-group market (18 million).[[4]](#footnote-4)

1. Leigh Purvis, *New Medicare Part D Out-of-Pocket Spending Cap is an Important Improvement for Enrollees Facing High Prescription Drug Costs*, AARP, (Aug. 2024), Appendix A, https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/topics/health/prescription-drugs/new-medicare-part-d-out-of-pocket-spending-cap-important-improvement-for-enrollees-facing-high-prescription-drug-costs.doi.10.26419-2fppi.00335.001.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Exploring Cost Data in the Georgia APCD, Georgia APCD*, (Mar. 2024), https://apcd.georgia.gov/blog/2024-03-01/exploring-cost-data-georgia-apcd [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Georgia Residents Worried about High Drug Costs – Support a Range of Government Solutions*, Altarum Healthcare Value Hub, (Oct. 2021), https://www.healthcarevaluehub.org/application/files/7116/3415/0511/Hub-Altarum\_Data\_Brief\_No.\_102\_-\_Georgia\_High\_Drug\_Prices.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Maximilian Pany, Jeannie Fuglesten Biniek, and Tricia Neuman, *Price Regulation, Global Budgets, and Spending Targets: A Road Map to Reduce Health Care Spending, and Improve Affordability*, KFF, (May 2022), https://www.kff.org/health-costs/report/price-regulation-global-budgets-and-spending-targets-a-road-map-to-reduce-health-care-spending-and-improve-affordability/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)