

Protecting \$0 HIV PrEP Access

PrEP

Is Key To Preserving the Progress Towards Ending the HIV Epidemic in the US

HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is a highly-effective preventive medication first introduced in 2012 that can achieve a **99% reduction in the risk of HIV infection.**

↓ **99%**



High out-of-pocket costs limited use of PrEP initially, but since 2021, nearly all private insurers have been required to cover PrEP at no cost to patients due to provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Affordable access to PrEP is threatened by a recent legal challenge (Braidwood Management, Inc. v. Becerra) wherein a federal district court judge struck down the ACA free preventive services provision.

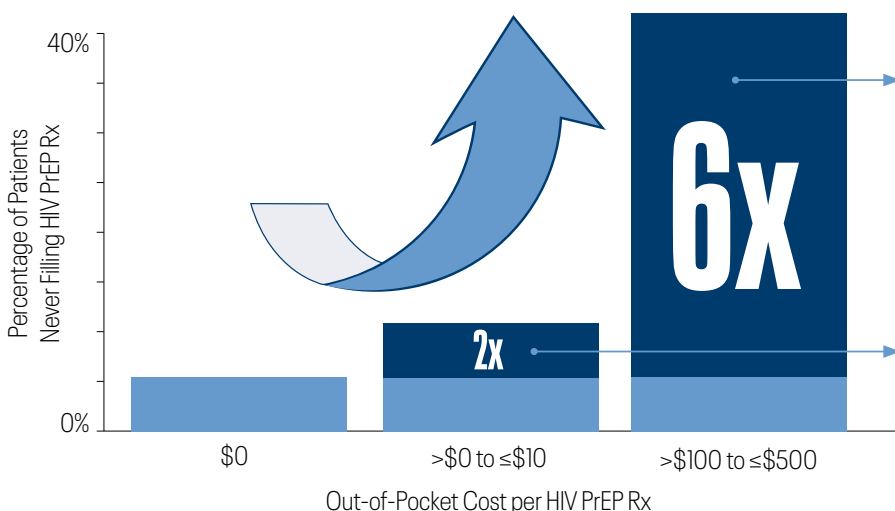
Unless this decision is overturned by a higher court or Congress passes a law, out-of-pocket costs for PrEP are likely to increase for privately insured individuals

NIH A new NIH-funded study in **Health Affairs** examined over **58,000 patients with a newly-prescribed insurer-approved PrEP prescription between 2016 to 2018** and found that:

The percent of patients who **abandoned (i.e. never filled)** their PrEP prescription **increased** as the out-of-pocket costs increased, ranging from **5.5%** for patients facing \$0 cost sharing to **42.6%** for those responsible for >\$500 in out-of-pocket costs

The rate of new HIV cases over the following year was **2 to 3 times higher** among those who never filled their PrEP prescription

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An increase from \$0 to between \$100 and \$500 in monthly PrEP out-of-pocket costs would increase PrEP abandonment rates by **6 times**, resulting in more than 1 in 3 patients never filling their PrEP Rx

Even a small increase, from \$0 to \$10 in monthly PrEP out-of-pocket costs, would **double** the percent of patients never filling their PrEP Rx

These findings suggest that limiting access to PrEP via the reintroduction of out-of-pocket costs could **upend the extraordinary progress the U.S. has made in eliminating HIV.**



The PrEP Access and Coverage Act could **prevent tens of thousands of new cases of HIV** each year by protecting \$0 HIV PrEP access.

