

The Cost of 340B to West Virginia

Introduction

The 340B Drug Pricing Program is a federal program in which manufacturers provide heavily discounted drugs to qualifying hospitals and clinics. Despite claims by its advocates that it is “free”, it increases healthcare costs for employers and their workers due to lost drug rebates.¹ New research has estimated the financial impact of the 340B program on each state.²

The Cost of the 340B Program

- 340B is costing West Virginia employers and workers \$76M annually (see table)
- Additionally, there’s a projected cost of \$28M from a law mandating contract pharmacies, recently passed in West Virginia
- The cost of 340B per beneficiary for state and local government employers is about 6% higher than for commercial employers
- West Virginia has above average 340B activity, as summarized in “West Virginia’s 340B Landscape” below

Annual Cost of 340B to West Virginia

| PER BENEFICIARY | TYPE | TOTAL COST | COST TO GOVERNMENT ³ |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| \$105 | Lost rebates | \$76M | \$15M |
| \$39 | Contract pharmacy mandate | \$28M | \$5M |
| \$144 | Total | \$104M | \$20M |

West Virginia’s 340B Landscape

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>340B utilization⁴</p> <hr/> <p>30% This is above the national average of 12%</p> | <p>340B facilities/100k pop.</p> <hr/> <p>52.9 This is above the national average of 15.8</p> | <p>Medicaid expansion⁵</p> <hr/> <p>Yes Helped hospitals qualify for 340B</p> |
|---|--|---|

1. [The Cost of the 340B Program Part 1: Self-insured Employers](#)
2. [The Cost of the 340B Program to States](#)
3. Cost to Government is defined as the costs of 340B to all state and local governments’ health plans in a state
4. 340B Utilization is defined as % of drugs (sold or administered) estimated to be 340B eligible
5. [Unintended Consequences: How the ACA Helped Grow the 340B Program](#)