MEDICAL DEBT BY THE NUMBERS

In 2019, Americans spent **$406.5 billion on medical bills,** typically through deductibles, co-payments, co-insurance and services not covered by insurance. These costs are in addition to their health insurance premiums.

For many people, these out of pocket costs are unaffordable and become medical debt.

There are **31 million uninsured individuals** in the United States. People who are uninsured or underinsured are at greater risk of incurring medical debt.

23% of working-age adults (ages 19-64) or around **44.5M people** have medical debt.

However, due to unfair and discriminatory barriers to health care, Black people are more likely to incur medical debt. **31% of Black people** in our country have some type of medical debt.
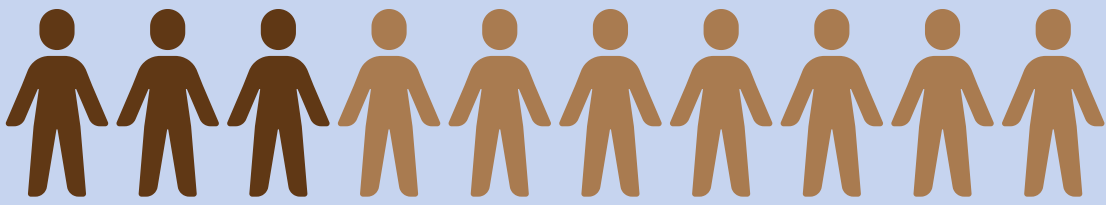
Medical debt is a barrier to health care

60% of people with medical bill issues and **65%** of uninsured individuals **put off or postponed getting the health care they needed.**

Medical debt can ruin credit

40% of people with medical bill issues **received a lower credit score rating.** In 2019, **more than $81 billion** in medical debt was reported on consumer credit reports as unpaid medical bills in collection

Medical debt strains financial health

37% of people with medical bill issues **used up all their savings to pay for their medical bills.**

31% of people with medical bill issues **took on credit card debt.**

26% of people said they **were unable to pay for basic necessities** such as food, rent, and heat due to medical debt or an issue with a medical bill.
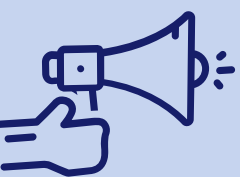
WE CAN FIX THE MEDICAL DEBT PROBLEM IN OUR COUNTRY.

Work with lawmakers and hospitals/health systems to advance and strengthen consumer-friendly policies.

Modify hospital billing/collection practices that currently contribute to economic instability.

Inform policymakers of problems resulting from unaffordable health care costs, medical debt and aggressive collection practices.

Inform the general public about charity care provided by hospitals.

Community Catalyst