

The Case for Competition



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Overview

2019 Generic Drug and Biosimilars Access and Savings in the U.S.

The 11th annual edition of AAM's Savings and Access Report quantifies how much money American patients and our health care system are saving because of generic and biosimilar alternatives to brand-name prescription and biologic medications. In 2018, generic savings totaled \$293 billion. The "Case for Competition" in a nutshell: The presence in the market of FDA-approved safe and effective generic and biosimilar medicines saves more Americans more money every year.

5.2B
(billion)
Generic Prescriptions Filled in 2018



90%
Prescriptions filled in the U.S. are dispensed as generics

22%
Generic share of overall drug spending in the U.S.

95.3%
Generic prescriptions filled at \$20 or less

\$5.63 Generic
\$40.65 Brand-Name
Avg. copay

Generic drugs generate competition and reduce overall drug spending.

- The Pew Charitable Trusts



"The good news is that cheaper biotech drugs are coming. Known as biosimilars, these complex copycat drugs (which are a bit like generics) have been allowed in Europe since 2004 and in America since 2010. At first, owing to policy roadblocks and anti-competitive tactics by incumbents, only a few came to market. But the firms that make them, which range from biotech giants to scrappy upstarts, are turning the trickle into a torrent." --The Economist, 2018

Patient savings case study:

Jonnie – Heart Disease Patient, Oklahoma

Jonnie of Skiatook, OK, manages her heart condition with metoprolol ER, the generic form of the brand-name drug Toprol XL. Metoprolol costs around \$6, which is 81 percent less than the average retail price of \$33.10 for the brand. On the other hand, there is no generic of the estrogen replacement she takes, and what she pays for the brand product equals her car payment.

[Watch Jonnie's Story](#)

Jonnie
Generic medications help keep me healthy.



\$292.6B
(Billion)
Generic drug savings in the U.S. 2018



10-year (2009-2018) savings: \$2 trillion

\$90.3B
Medicare Savings
(\$2,254 per enrollee)

\$46.8B
Medicaid Savings
(\$817 per enrollee)



23 biosimilars have been approved in the U.S. to date and 9 are on the market. Biosimilars could lead to more than \$54 billion in savings over the next ten years, giving 1.2 million patients access to needed medicines.

The U.S. drug supply chain remains one of the safest in the world.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

[Learn more](#)



Take Action

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[Find out how to fix the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement \(USMCA\).](#)

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Data source: IQVIA 2019, biosimilars as of 7/23/19



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