

VT Healthcare: Unaffordable and Inaccessible

1. Green Mountain Care Board Chair Kevin Mullin Acknowledged the Unaffordability of Premiums:

“These rates are not affordable. We acknowledge they are not affordable. But at the same time we can’t put a company out of business,” Mullin said. This slide shows this unsustainable growth..

Figure 2: Growth in Premiums for Individuals, Families, & Small Employers vs Vermont's Median Hourly Wage

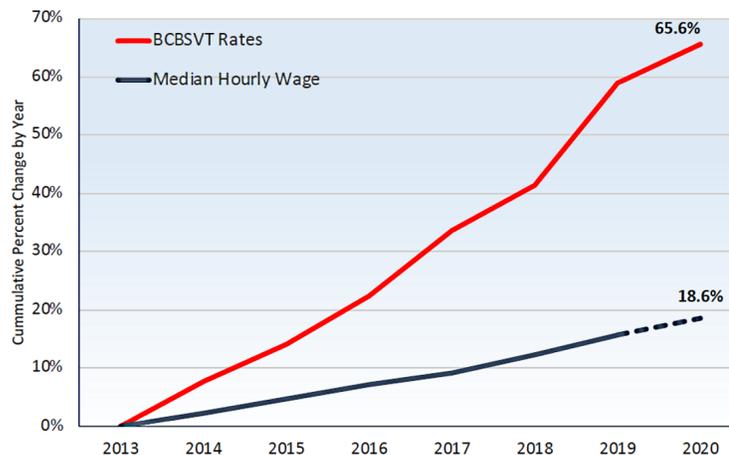


Figure 2 Sources: BCBSVT Rate data comes from the Green Mountain Care Board and Median Hourly Wage data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics.

Source: [HCE Report, Vermont State Auditor \(August 2020\)](#).

2. Many, Many Vermonters Remain Underinsured:

While Vermont has a high proportion of insured people, this hides the fact that in the latest official survey (2021), 1/3 of Vermonters were underinsured (187,000 Vermonters under age 65, and another 40,000 over age 65).

This means they cannot afford to use the insurance they already paid for; they cannot access needed care because of high out of pocket costs. High “cost sharing” has been shown to cause people to delay or avoid care, which in turn makes them sicker, go into debt or die younger.

41% of all privately insured Vermonters have a deductible over \$4,000. (Yet in 2020, over 36% of Americans could not come up with \$400 in an emergency)!

Medical debt is a problem for thousands of Vermonters. (You can read their stories from around the state here: www.vtmedicaldebt.org).

Rates of underinsurance in 2021 were high in all sectors of the population and even higher among Black Vermonters, those in a gender identity minority, and those living with a disability.

3. **All Those Vermonters Are Underinsured Despite Our [Spending \\$6.5 Billion a Year](#) on Health Care**

4. **Yet High Salaries Permeate the Upper Levels of the State's Health Care Industry**
 - a. Over 50 employees in Vermont's hospitals [made over \\$500,000 in FY 2020](#),
 - b. Vermont's BCBS CEO made [over \\$682,000 for 2021](#),
 - c. Accountable Care Organization, OneCare Vermont's CEO [made over \\$400,000 in 2019](#)

5. **While salaries for most Vermonters languish far below**
 - a. [Median household income in Vermont](#) from 2016-2020 was \$63, 477
 - b. VT registered nurses [average \\$72,140 in 2022](#).

6. **Meanwhile one-third of all our money goes to [administrative overhead](#) in our privatized fragmented system.**

7. **Remember that Single-Payer Health Care Did Not Fail in Vermont: It was [simply never implemented, never given a chance to work!](#)**