

Affordability of Health Insurance and Health Care: Consumer Views

Sara R. Collins, Ph.D.
Vice President, Health Care Coverage and Access
The Commonwealth Fund

Alliance for Health Reform Briefing
Health Insurance Marketplaces, Round II: Results and Expectations
November 14, 2014



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Affordable, quality health care. For everyone.

Exhibit 2. Average Silver Plan Premiums and Deductibles in CO, CT, MN, NV

States	Average Premium (Silver Plans)			Average Deductible (Silver Plans with deductibles)		
	2014	2015	% Change	2014	2015	% Change
CO	\$368	\$345	-6%	\$2,448	\$2,587	6%
CT	\$389	\$361	-7%	\$2,850	\$2,342	-18%
MN	\$224	\$255	14%	\$2,636	\$2,268	-14%
NV	\$312	\$323	4%	\$2,671	\$2,962	11%

Note: Final single rates for 40-year-old nonsmokers; percent changes are weighted.

Source: Jon Gabel, Heidi Whitmore, et al., on the Commonwealth Fund blog available at:

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/blog/2014/oct/premiums-decline-in-colorado-and-connecticut>;

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/blog/2014/oct/premiums-unchanged-in-rhode-island>;

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/interactives-and-data/maps-and-data/health-insurance-marketplace-premiums>

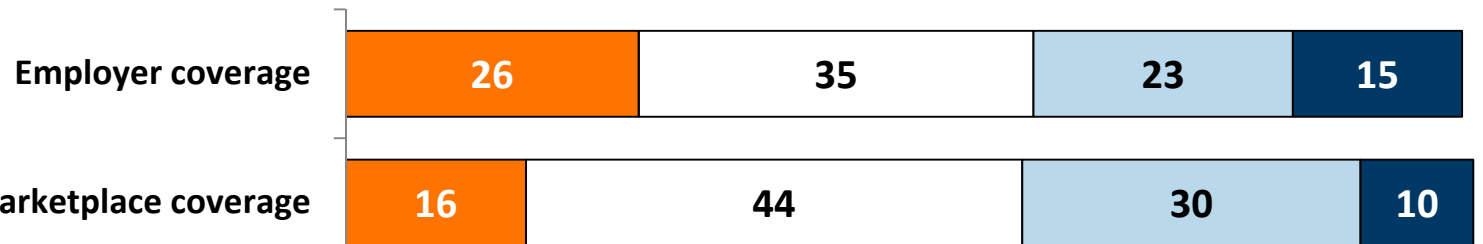


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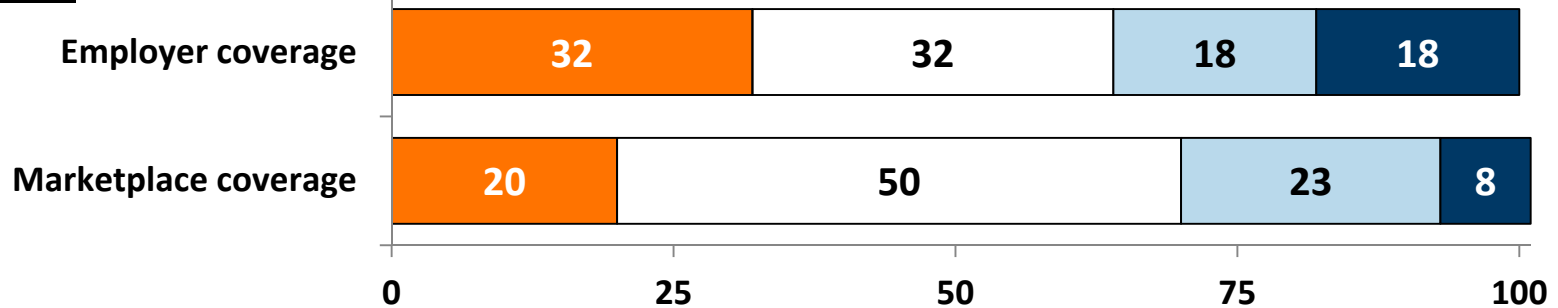
Exhibit 3. How Do Premiums Paid by People With Marketplace Plans Compare with Those In Employer Plans ?

■ Pays nothing
 ■ \$1 to less than \$125
 ■ \$125 or more
 ■ Don't know or refused

All adults



Adults with incomes below 250% FPL



Percent adults ages 19–64 with single policies

Note: FPL refers to federal poverty level. 250% of the poverty level is \$28,725 for an individual or \$58,875 for a family of four.

Bars may not sum to 100 percent because of rounding.

Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, April–June 2014.



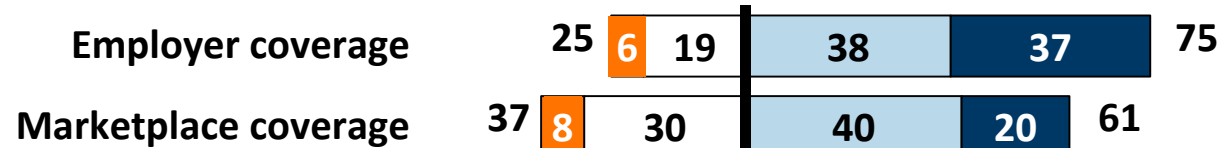
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Exhibit 4. Are Consumers Finding Marketplace Premiums Affordable?

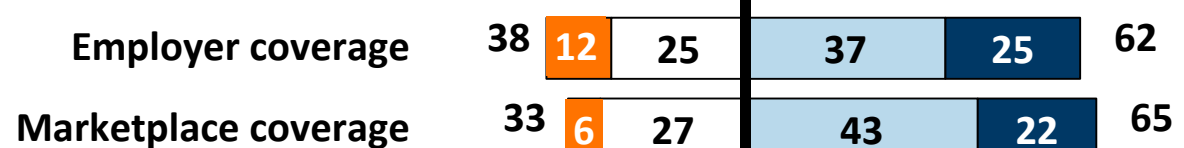
How easy or difficult is it for you to afford the premium costs for your health insurance?

■ Very difficult or impossible
 Somewhat difficult
 Somewhat easy
 Very easy

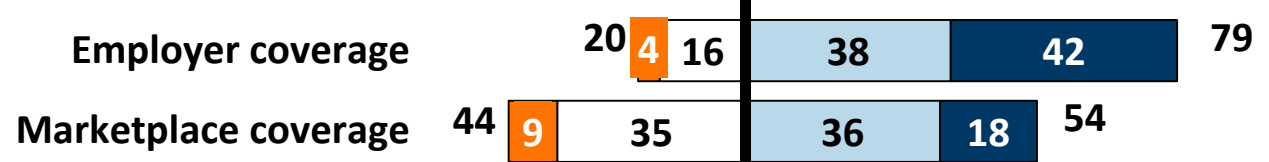
All adults



Adults with incomes below 250% FPL



Adults with incomes of 250% FPL or more



Percent adults ages 19–64 who pay all or some of premium

Note: FPL refers to federal poverty level. 250% of the poverty level is \$28,725 for an individual or \$58,875 for a family of four.

Bars may not sum to 100 percent because of “don’t know” responses or refusal to respond; segments may not sum to subtotals because of rounding.

Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, April–June 2014.



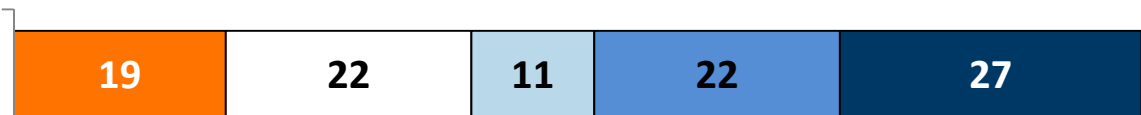
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Exhibit 5. Are Deductibles in Marketplace Plans Comparable to Those in Employer Plans?

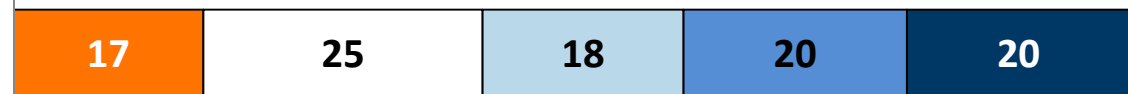
■ No deductible
 ■ \$1 to less than \$500
 ■ \$500 to less than \$1,000
 ■ \$1,000 or more
 ■ Don't know or refused

Adults with incomes below 250% FPL

Employer coverage



Marketplace coverage

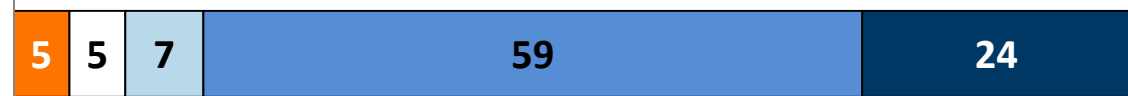


Adults with incomes of 250% FPL or more

Employer coverage



Marketplace coverage



0 25 50 75 100

Percent adults ages 19–64

Note: FPL refers to federal poverty level. 250% of the poverty level is \$28,725 for an individual or \$58,875 for a family of four.

Bars may not sum to 100 percent because of rounding.

Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, April–June 2014.

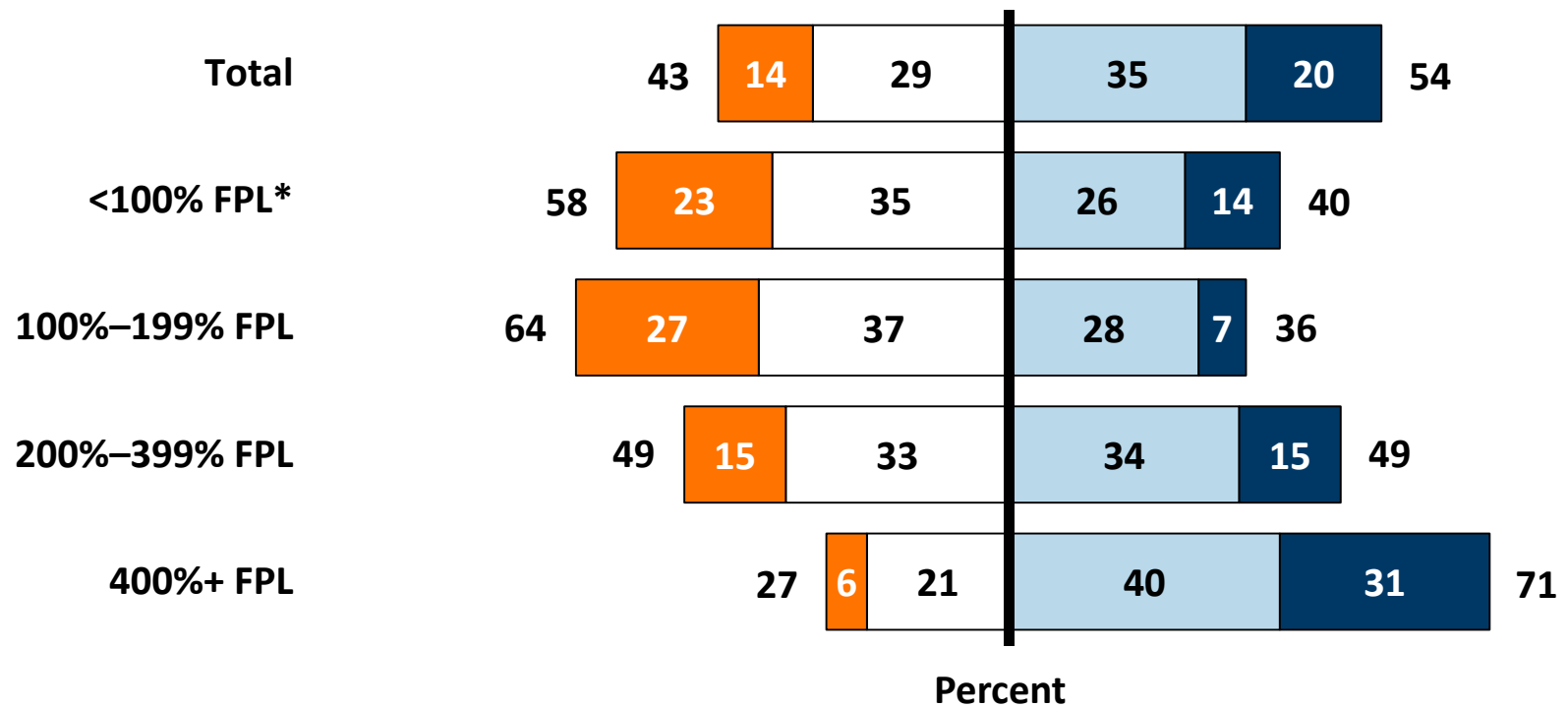


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Exhibit 6. Many Adults with Employer or Individually Purchased Insurance Report Difficulty Affording Their Deductible

How easy or difficult is it for you to afford your deductible?

■ Very difficult or impossible
 ■ Somewhat difficult
 ■ Somewhat easy
 ■ Very easy



Privately insured adults ages 19–64 who have a deductible

Notes: FPL refers to federal poverty level. Bars may not sum to 100% because of “don’t know” responses or refusal to respond; segments may not sum to subtotals because of rounding.

* Sample size n=94.

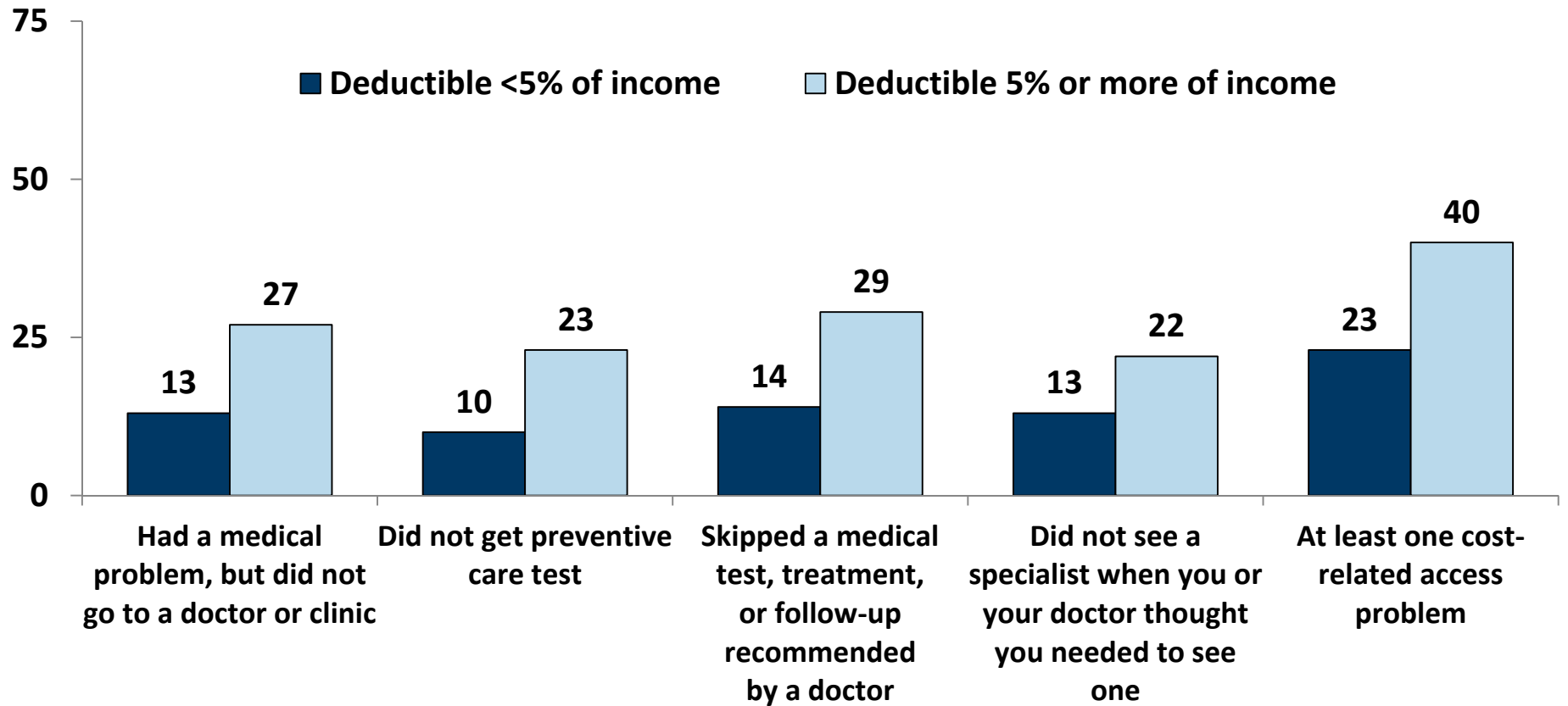
Source: The Commonwealth Fund Insurance Affordability Tracking Survey, September–October 2014.



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Exhibit 7. Two of Five Privately Insured Adults with Deductibles That Comprise 5 Percent or More of Their Income Reported Not Getting Needed Health Care Because of Their Deductible

Percent responding “yes”



Privately insured adults ages 19–64 who have a deductible

Base: Respondents who reported their income level and deductible for their private insurance plan (includes those who are currently covered by employer-provided insurance, a marketplace plan, or a plan they purchased through the individual market outside of the marketplaces).

Source: The Commonwealth Fund Health Care Affordability Tracking Survey, September–October 2014.



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Exhibit 8. Looking Ahead: Health Insurance Affordability and Underinsurance

- Marketplaces in 2015 are stable and competitive.
 - Premiums have increased moderately or declined.
 - Significant increase in number of plans offered on the marketplaces.
 - Consumers who return to shop may find better deals than in 2014.
- Premium tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies are critical in reducing cost burdens for lower-income families.
- People in marketplace plans with higher incomes report more difficulty affording premiums and have higher deductibles than those with lower incomes.
- Trends towards greater cost-sharing across all forms of insurance combined with little growth in median income is leaving many Americans with high out-of-pocket cost burdens.
- ACA reforms are improving affordability and will help reduce “underinsurance”.
- But the underlying rate of growth in U.S. health care costs will be a factor.



Acknowledgements and Resources

S.R. Collins, P.W. Rasmussen, M.M. Doty, and S. Beutel, *Too High a Price: Out-of-Pocket Costs in the United States, Results from the Commonwealth Fund Health Care Affordability Tracking Survey*, The Commonwealth Fund, November 2014.

P. W. Rasmussen, S. R. Collins, M. M. Doty, and S. Beutel, *Are Americans Finding Affordable Coverage in the Health Insurance Marketplaces? Results from the Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey*, The Commonwealth Fund, September 2014.

Available at: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2014/sep/affordable-coverage-marketplace>



Petra Rasmussen
The Commonwealth Fund



Michelle Doty
The Commonwealth Fund



Sophie Beutel
The Commonwealth Fund



Robyn Rapoport
SSRS



Jon Gabel
NORC



Sam Stromberg
NORC



Matthew Green
NORC



Daniel Weinstein
NORC



Rebecca Oran
NORC



Heidi Whitmore
NORC



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