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The Office of the Health Care Advocate (HCA) recently deployed an interactive web application to collect and archive Vermonters' experiences with medical debt and the cost of health care. You can explore the stories at www.vtmedicaldebt.org.

You can read stories of Vermonters in a particular county by clicking the county of interest on the map. You can also use the drop-down filter to sort the stories by topic.

So far, we've heard from hundreds of Vermonters from all parts of the state who have or currently suffer from the impact of medical debt. The project is ongoing, and we look forward to having even more Vermonters contribute their stories to the project.

www.vtmedicaldebt.org

- Medical debt impacts Vermonters of all ages, income levels, and insurance types - including Vermonters who are on Medicare and/or have families and relatives in their care.
- Medical debt impacts Vermonters from all areas of the state: rural, suburban, and urban.
- Vermonters live in fear of incurring medical debt, which prevents them from getting the right care at the right time.
- Vermonters with medical debt often told us that they want to pay back their debt but cannot because the costs exceed their financial means.
- Medical debt negatively impacts Vermont children and families, as parents are forced to make impossible choices about who they can afford to send to receive medical care.
- Vermonters with medical debt told us that they avoid getting care of all kinds even when it is recommended by their provider.



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