

United States Senate

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Schumer Report: Medicare Part D Wiping Out Independent Pharmacies Across Upstate New York – Program Has Reduced Cash Flow for 90 Percent of Independents

Today, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer revealed that the hundreds of independent and family-run pharmacies are in danger of going out of business as a direct result of Medicare Part D. The prescription drug program, which began in January of 2006, is not reimbursing pharmacies quickly enough or at high enough levels for them to stay out of the red. Pharmacies often wait over a month for a reimbursement from the Medicare drug plans, and too often the reimbursement rates do not even come close to covering the ever-increasing cost of dispensing for a Medicare prescription. With costs rising and reimbursements coming too late and not covering enough of the overall cost, many Upstate pharmacies have been forced to take out loans simply to keep their doors open.

There are only 35 community pharmacies left in the Capital Region, an estimated three fewer than last year.

County	Number of Pharmacies (January 2006)	Number of Pharmacies (January 2007)	Number of Pharmacies Lost
Albany	11	10	1
Fulton	3	3	0
Montgomery	6	5	1
Rensselaer	6	5	1
Saratoga	3	3	0
Schenectady	4	4	0
Schoharie	2	2	0
Washington	3	3	0
Capital Region Total	38	35	3

There are only 39 community pharmacies left in Central New York, an estimated four fewer than last year.

County	Number of Pharmacies (January 2006)	Number of Pharmacies (January 2007)	Number of Pharmacies Lost
Onondaga	18	16	2
Oswego	6	5	1
Cortland	1	1	0
Madison	4	4	0
Oneida	14	13	1
Central New York Total	43	39	4

There are only 49 community pharmacies left in the Rochester-Finger Lakes region, an estimated five fewer than last year.

County	Number of Pharmacies (January 2006)	Number of Pharmacies (January 2007)	Number of Pharmacies Lost
Monroe	26	23	3
Cayuga	2	2	0
Livingston	2	2	0
Ontario	10	9	1
Schuyler	1	1	0
Seneca	3	3	0
Tompkins	2	2	0
Wayne	6	5	1
Yates	2	2	0
Finger Lakes Total	54	49	5

There are only 206 community pharmacies left in the Hudson Valley, an estimated 24 fewer than last year.

County	Number of Pharmacies (January 2006)	Number of Pharmacies (January 2007)	Number of Pharmacies Lost
Westchester	115	103	12
Orange	29	26	3
Columbia	1	1	0
Dutchess	20	18	2
Greene	3	3	0
Putnam	9	8	1
Rockland	35	31	4
Sullivan	9	8	1
Ulster	9	8	1
Hudson Valley Total	230	206	24

There are only 26 community pharmacies left in the North Country, an estimated two fewer than last year.

County	Number of Pharmacies (January 2006)	Number of Pharmacies (January 2007)	Number of Pharmacies Lost
Clinton	7	6	1
St. Lawrence	2	2	0
Warren	3	3	0
Essex	4	4	0
Franklin	2	2	0
Hamilton	0	0	0
Herkimer	3	3	0
Jefferson	6	5	1
Lewis	1	1	0
North Country Total	28	26	2

There are only 33 community pharmacies left in the Southern Tier, an estimated three fewer than last year.

County	Number of Pharmacies (January 2006)	Number of Pharmacies (January 2007)	Number of Pharmacies Lost
Broome	12	11	1
Allegany	6	5	1
Chemung	8	7	1
Chenango	2	2	0
Delaware	2	2	0
Otsego	2	2	0
Steuben	4	4	0
Tioga	0	0	0
Southern Tier Total	36	33	3

There are only 89 community pharmacies left in Western New York, an estimated nine fewer than last year.

County	Number of Pharmacies (January 2006)	Number of Pharmacies (January 2007)	Number of Pharmacies Lost
Erie	55	49	6
Genesee	3	3	0
Niagara	11	10	1
Orleans	4	4	0
Wyoming	3	3	0
Cattaraugus	12	11	1
Chautauqua	10	9	1
Western NY Total	98	89	9