

# By the Numbers

## Generic Drugs

- 50** Percentage of prescription drugs that are generic purchased in the United States
- 70** Percentage by which a generic drug (at an average price of \$28.74) is cheaper than its brand-name counterpart (\$96.01)
- 3.5** Average percentage variation in bioequivalence (delivery of the same amount of active ingredient in the same amount of time) between generics and their brand-name counterparts, about the same variation between lots of the same brand-name drug
- 10** Number of states that prohibit, without a doctor's consent, the prescription of generic versions of "narrow therapeutic index" drugs, in which small deviations in dosage could be toxic or render the drug ineffective
- 17** Number of years most drugs are patent protected, barring generic versions from being produced
- 8,400** Number of drugs, out of 11,167, in the FDA's approved-drug directory with generic counterparts
- 65** Percentage of physicians in a recent AARP study who say they feel frequently pressured by health-care plans or insurance companies to prescribe generics
- 8-10** Estimated billions of dollars that U.S. consumers save by choosing generics over brand names

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