

A Penta White Paper

**Penta** Policy Insiders

# New York Insights Review Series

Healthcare

January 2024  
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# Executive summary

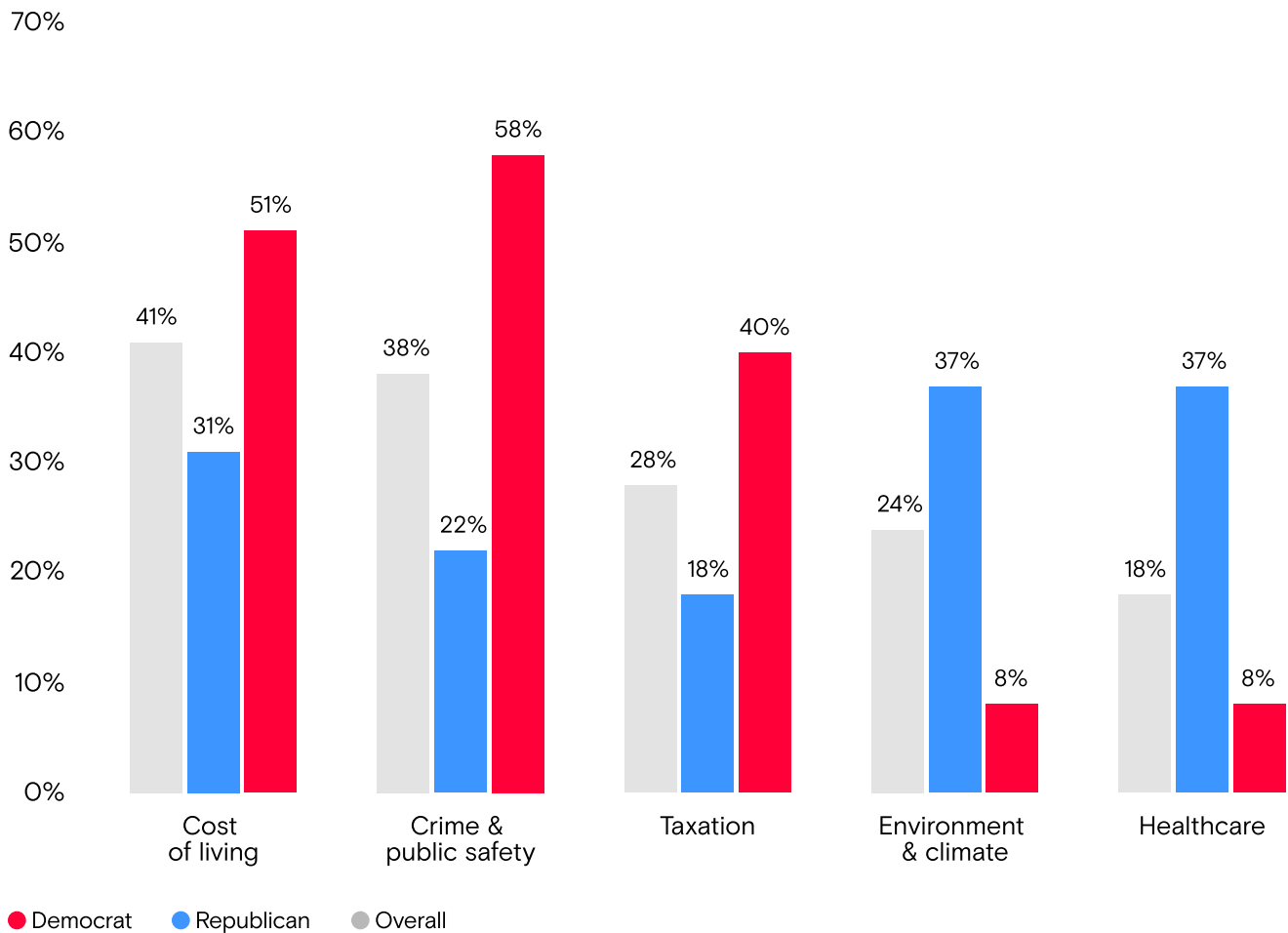
We are pleased to share our findings in this year's New York Insights Review. From X to X 2023, we spoke to over 270 policymakers in the state about their policy priorities and the top issues facing their communities.

Cost of living is the top priority for New York policymakers this year, who have placed particular focus on addressing the lack of affordable housing options throughout the state. Policymakers also note the state's high tax rates as another issue they would like to spend time on. Crime and public safety, environment and climate, and healthcare are all also at the top of policymaker priorities this year.

This report is sixth in a series that examines five of New York policymakers' top priorities, which include (i) cost of living (ii) crime and public safety (iii) taxation (iv) environment and climate and (v) healthcare.

## Top policy priorities in New York

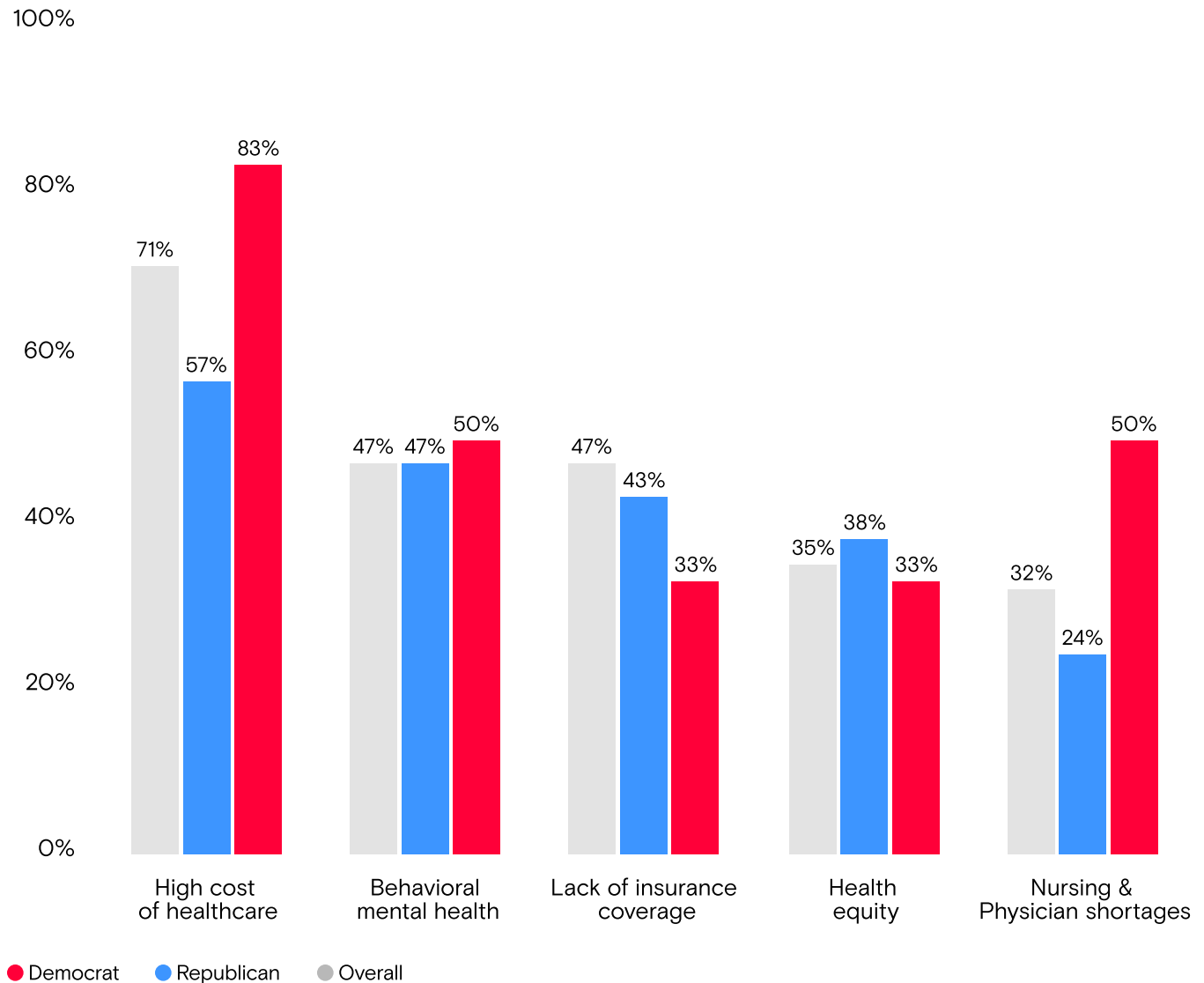
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Source: Penta Policy Insiders

# Healthcare in New York

Policymakers in New York are split on whether or not healthcare is a top policy priority. In fact, 24 percent of Democrats say healthcare is a key concern compared to just nine percent of Republicans. However, when it comes to specifically addressing healthcare costs, policymakers can agree that finding a solution to the increasing costs of healthcare in the state is key - with 71 percent of policymakers saying it is a priority. Additionally, almost half of all policy leaders - 47 percent - also highlight that mental health resources and lack of insurance coverage are equally important priorities.



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## A spotlight on mental health

New York policymakers emphasize the value of mental health services in their communities, with 47 of policy leaders saying behavioral health is a key issue. Some Republican policymakers highlight the intersection between homelessness and the need for increased access to mental health services, while other Republicans contend that mental health services in school are a hindrance to children's social development.

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**I do have concern that the rest of the ancillary services around mental health in schools are over-pathologizing kids and robbing their chances of learning how to be resilient.** Everything is a trauma; everything is a crisis. And man, the world just doesn't work that way.

Director, New York Municipality, R

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**[We are looking to try] various policy initiatives or other types of implementation of public health initiatives to improve public mental health...** That's one of our top priorities.

Director, New York Executive Branch, D

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Homeless issues can stress you out and be overwhelming and **people deserve some support around that kind of stuff, whether it's social kinds of support, clinical, psychotherapy kinds of support.** People are suffering.

Commissioner, Municipal, R

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## Corporate leadership in improving access to healthcare

When it comes to healthcare, Democrat policymakers – 57 percent – emphasize that the high cost of healthcare is a top concern. Some Democrat policy leaders say large corporations have a role to play in improving affordable access to healthcare.

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**If a corporation wants to promote itself as looking out for its employees, [that means] giving them a living wage and giving them good benefits, making it so that they can actually afford health insurance** and giving them paid time off for sick leave and holidays. Such a corporation can prove that it actually cares about people by legitimately taking care of number one, it's own employees... **The bigger the corporation I think the more they can afford to actually take care of their own employees.**

Officer, Executive, D

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# Conclusion

New York policy leaders agree that healthcare is a top-of-mind issue in the state. More specifically, policymakers are particularly concerned about the high cost of healthcare and also say they want to see more mental health services in their communities. Some policy staff in the state express the expectation for corporations to play a role in lowering the cost of healthcare for employees working in the state.



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## About Penta Policy Insiders

Penta Policy Insiders provides direct feedback from policymakers to government relations professionals, improving advocates' ability to understand, validate, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their engagement.

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