# **ARKANSANS** ARE BEING **Denied Life-Saving** Heart Medication

Arkansas' rate of heart disease is higher than the national average. Yet insurers are more likely to reject Arkansans' prescriptions for cholesterol-lowering medication.

> Heart disease is THE #1 CAUSE OF DEATH

in Arkansas.

37%

## OF ARKANSANS HAVE HIGH CHOLESTEROL,

REJECTE

which can double the risk of heart disease.

PCSK9 inhibitors can **DECREASE CHOLESTEROL BY UP TO 70%** and cut the risk of a heart attack by almost one-third.



#### Health plans **REJECTED 35%** of Arkansas patients who need a PCSK9 inhibitor.



 Nearly 1 in every 3 Arkansans has their prescription rejected.

84%

**50%** 

 The rejection rate in Arkansas is 67% higher than the national average.

#### For some patient groups, **REJECTIONS ARE EVEN HIGHER.**



Rejection rate for **women** in Arkansas



Rejection rate for **Black women** in Arkansas

## HEALTH PLANS WITH HIGHEST REJECTION RATES in Arkansas were:

Arkansas State Employees

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arkansas



# **THAT'S TOO MUCH** FOR HEART PATIENTS.

Insurers should provide all patients access to life-saving medication.

Data source: Symphony Health; Commercial plans, January 2019 – December 2021



Partnership to **advance** Cardiovascular Health

Read the full report here ▶