

NATIONAL

# ESSENTIAL MEDICINE SHORTAGE

AWARENESS DAY

## OVERVIEW

When Americans go to a hospital, visit a doctor or need an ambulance, they expect the drugs that they need will be on the shelf — whether to treat minimal health care needs or more urgent life-threatening conditions. But in reality, some of the most critical medicines we rely on are delayed or unavailable due to a poorly designed global supply chain that has resulted in shortages of our nation's most essential medicines.

## PROBLEM

In recent years, there have been substantially greater calls for more medicines to be made in America, and in particular, drug shortages have been heavily driven by either quality concerns or reliance on foreign supply chains.

While medicine shortages have been a persistent challenge for the U.S. healthcare system for more than a decade, the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified vulnerabilities in the overall supply chain for essential medicines in America.

## SOLUTION

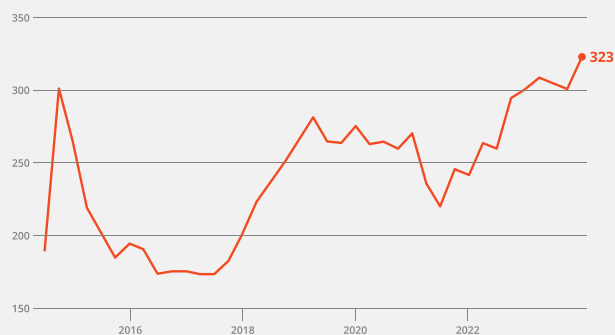
It is critical to national public health security that public-private partnerships are established to accelerate efforts to domestically manufacture essential medicines. The crisis calls for action from both government and industry experts to help bring an end to these essential medicine shortages.

Critically important change and transformation cannot come fast enough. A growing movement driven by public-private partnerships and forward-thinking industry leaders with bipartisan, bicameral support is committed to solving this issue for Americans today and for generations to come. However, the broken supply chain is a complex problem that no one approach can fix. It will take the effort, innovation, and collaboration of many to solve.



September 8th has been identified as the national observance day to bring awareness of essential medicine shortages and to create solutions that result in a reliable supply of high-quality medicine.

## ACTIVE DRUG SHORTAGES IN THE U.S.



Data: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists; Note: Each point represents the number of active shortages at the end of each quarter.

# 323

medicines are in short supply, as of March 2024, marking the highest level since the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) began tracking this issue in 2001<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> ASHP. (n.d.). Drug shortages statistics. Retrieved July 5, 2023 from <https://www.ashp.org/drug-shortages/shortage-resources/drug-shortages-statistics?loginreturnUrl=SSOCheckOnly>