Health care spending in the United States

To combat rising health spending, it is critical to understand what conditions are driving the spending. The first-ever study of how much America spends on different conditions, ages, sexes, and types of care can be used to address rising health spending. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation led this study.

US spending on personal health care*

On which conditions does the US spend the most money, and how are they changing over time?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Spending (in billions of US dollars)</th>
<th>Annual rate of change, 1996 - 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Diabetes mellitus</td>
<td>$1.01 trillion</td>
<td>6.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Ischemic heart disease</td>
<td>$0.81 trillion</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Low back and neck pain</td>
<td>$0.87 trillion</td>
<td>6.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 High blood pressure</td>
<td>$0.83 trillion</td>
<td>5.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Falls</td>
<td>$0.76 trillion</td>
<td>3.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Depression</td>
<td>$0.71 trillion</td>
<td>3.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Oral disorders</td>
<td>$0.66 trillion</td>
<td>2.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Vision and hearing loss</td>
<td>$0.59 trillion</td>
<td>2.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Skin diseases</td>
<td>$0.55 trillion</td>
<td>2.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Pregnancy and postpartum care</td>
<td>$0.55 trillion</td>
<td>2.90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Totals reflect amount of spending that could be broken down by condition.

Note: Spending on oral disorders includes oral surgery and cavities, including fillings, crowns, tooth removal, & dentures; skin diseases include conditions such as cellulitis, cysts, acne, and eczema.

1 Diabetes

Americans spent nearly three times as much money on diabetes as they did on Alzheimer’s disease in 2013. 58% of spending on diabetes is on pharmaceuticals.

3 Low back and neck pain

69% of spending on low back and neck pain is on people ages 20 to 64 years.

7 Oral disorders

According to experts, oral disorders could be prevented through regular dental visits and access to dental care.

Fastest spending growth from 1996 to 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low back and neck pain</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How much money is spent on different types of care?

- Ambulatory (outpatient): $706 billion
- Prescribed pharmaceuticals: $288 billion
- Inpatient: $697 billion
- Nursing facility care: $194 billion
- Dental: $112 billion
- Emergency: $102 billion
Among ages 65+, how much is spent on different types of care and conditions?

Total for 2013, both sexes: $2.1 trillion

### How do spending patterns differ by age and sex in 2013?

#### Age
- <20 years
- 20 to 44
- 45 to 65
- 65+

#### Type of care
- Ambulatory
- Inpatient
- Prescribed pharmaceuticals
- Nursing facility care
- Dental
- Emergency

#### Cause
- Communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases
- Neoplasms
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Chronic respiratory diseases
- Cirrhosis and other chronic liver diseases
- Digestive diseases
- Neurological disorders
- Mental and substance use disorders
- Diabetes, urogenital, blood, and endocrine diseases
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Other non-communicable diseases
- Injuries
- Well-care spending
- Treatment of risk factors

### Methods
Researchers used insurance claims from the private sector and Medicare, in addition to household surveys, health facility administrative records, and government budget information to make spending estimates. They used the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) to classify spending by health condition.