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?

1. Diabetes mellitus
2. Ischemic heart disease
3. Low back and neck pain
4. High blood pressure
5. Falls
6. Depression
7. Oral disorders
8. Vision and hearing loss
9. Skin diseases
10. Pregnancy and postpartum care

*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

2. Ischemic heart disease

3. Low back and neck pain

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

3X

4. High blood pressure

5. Falls

6. Depression

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

By condition

- Diabetes: 6.1% growth annually
- Low back and neck pain: 6.4% growth annually

By type of care

- Pharmaceuticals: 5.6% growth annually
- Emergency care: 6.4% growth annually

How much money is spent on different types of care? 2013

- Ambulatory (outpatient): $706 billion
- Prescribed pharmaceuticals: $288 billion
- Inpatient: $697 billion
- Nursing facility care: $194 billion
- Dental: $112 billion
- Emergency: $102 billion