

Prescription Medicines^a-Median and Mean Expenses per Person With Expense and Distribution of Expenses by Source of Payment: United States, 1999

Population Characteristic	Population (in thousands)	Percent with expense	Per person with an expense		Total Expenses (in millions)	Percent distribution of total expenses by source of payment				
			Median	Mean		Out of pocket	Private insurance ^b	Medicare	Medicaid	Other ^c
Total	276,411	62.4	174	547	94,242	46.2	35.4	4.7	10.3	3.4
Age in years										
Under 65	241,735	58.7	124	434	61,594	40.2	44.8	0.7*	12.3	1.9
Under 6	23,849	58.5	36	86	1,195	41.6	38.1	0.0*	20.1	0.2*
6-17	48,783	46.2	57	195	4,406	34.4	40.2	0.0*	25.3	0.1*
18-44	108,964	56.4	111	356	21,893	40.9	42.8	0.7*	14.6	1.0*
45-64	60,139	73.1	368	775	34,099	40.5	47.0	0.9	8.9	2.7
65 and over	34,676	88.0	682	1,071	32,648	57.4	17.6	12.1	6.5	6.4
Sex										
Male	134,603	55.4	133	511	38,077	43.1	36.5	4.3	9.2	6.9
Female	141,808	69.0	205	574	56,165	48.3	34.7	4.9	11.1	1.1
Race/ethnicity										
White and Other	208,599	66.5	200	574	79,683	46.4	37.6	4.6	7.8	3.6
Black	34,781	51.3	109	481	8,567	44.3	24.8	5.2	23.1	2.6
Hispanic	33,031	48.1	80	377	5,992	45.6	22.1	4.6	25.0	2.8
Health insurance status^d										
<65, Any private	184,520	61.8	134	411	46,848	37.9	59.0	0.7*	1.7*	0.8
<65, Public only	27,148	61.5	108	699	11,670	36.9	0.0*	1.1	58.2	3.7
<65, Uninsured	30,067	37.2	75	275	3,075	89.2	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	10.8
65+, Medicare only	10,853	86.1	611	1,016	9,497	71.2	0.0*	18.6	0.0*	10.2
65+, Medicare and private	19,884	89.7	705	1,077	19,218	54.4	29.9	9.8	0.5*	5.4
65+, Medicare and other public	3,808	84.6	790	1,219	3,929	38.7	0.0*	7.6	51.2	2.4*
65+, Missing	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Poverty status^e										
Negative or Poor	32,795	59.1	137	661	12,812	43.8	11.1	4.1	37.7	3.2
Near-poor	12,322	58.0	159	547	3,910	53.2	12.8	5.4	24.1	4.5*
Low income	38,928	58.8	167	562	12,870	53.1	20.3	7.7	14.9	4.0
Middle income	86,182	61.6	173	546	29,006	50.1	35.5	5.0	4.6	4.8
High income	106,184	65.9	191	510	35,644	40.6	52.0	3.4	1.9*	2.1
Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)										
MSA	221,447	61.7	167	536	73,180	44.7	36.9	5.4	9.7	3.2
Non-MSA	52,084	65.8	200	581	19,893	50.7	30.7	1.7	12.5	4.3
Missing	2,879	57.2	378	709	1,168	61.9	18.4*	7.9*	8.6*	3.2*
Census Region										
Northeast	51,867	62.2	163	566	18,278	41.4	35.9	6.6	13.5	2.6
Midwest	64,230	65.2	173	538	22,554	46.0	39.7	3.3	8.3	2.7
South	97,176	64.0	200	582	36,196	50.0	33.0	2.5	10.2	4.3
West	63,138	57.1	138	477	17,215	43.5	34.3	9.0	9.7	3.5

Standard Errors for Prescription Medicines^a-Median and Mean Expenses per Person With Expense and Distribution of Expenses by Source of Payment: United States, 1999

Population Characteristic	Population (in thousands)	Percent with expense	Per person with an expense		Total Expenses (in millions)	Percent distribution of total expenses by source of payment				
			Median	Mean		Out of pocket	Private insurance ^b	Medicare	Medicaid	Other ^c
Total	†	0.4	5	14	2,996	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.3
Age in years										
Under 65	†	0.5	4	13	2,248	0.9	1.2	0.3*	1.1	0.3
Under 6	†	1.4	3	5	82	2.6	3.0	0.0*	2.6	0.2*
6-17	†	1.0	3	27	641	1.7	5.7	0.0*	5.2	0.1*
18-44	†	0.6	4	15	1,173	1.5	1.7	0.6*	2.0	0.3*
45-64	†	0.8	13	30	1,515	1.2	1.5	0.3	0.9	0.4
65 and over	†	0.8	24	30	1,530	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.6
Sex										
Male	†	0.6	6	21	1,647	1.2	1.4	0.5	1.3	0.6
Female	†	0.6	6	15	1,996	0.9	1.0	0.5	0.9	0.2
Race/ethnicity										
White and Other	†	0.6	6	16	2,863	0.9	1.0	0.4	0.8	0.3
Black	†	1.3	8	28	726	2.2	2.3	1.0	2.4	0.7
Hispanic	†	0.9	5	20	488	1.8	1.5	0.9	2.3	0.7
Health insurance status^d										
<65, Any private	6,121	0.5	5	14	1,901	1.0	1.0	0.3*	0.7*	0.1
<65, Public only	1,313	1.3	9	52	996	2.3	0.0*	0.3	2.5	1.1
<65, Uninsured	1,317	1.1	7	19	262	2.5	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	2.5
65+, Medicare only	576	1.5	42	57	783	2.1	0.0*	1.9	0.0*	1.5
65+, Medicare and private	836	0.9	34	38	1,102	1.6	1.5	1.1	0.2*	0.7
65+, Medicare and other public	298	3.0	77	93	446	3.2	0.0*	1.8	3.5	1.2*
65+, Missing	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Poverty status^e										
Negative or Poor	†	1.3	10	46	1,095	1.9	1.7	1.2	2.9	0.7
Near-poor	†	2.2	26	48	414	3.1	2.6	1.4	3.1	1.4*
Low income	†	1.2	13	31	791	2.0	1.8	1.3	2.0	0.8
Middle income	†	0.8	8	24	1,430	1.5	1.7	0.8	0.8	0.6
High income	†	0.7	8	18	1,787	1.1	1.2	0.5	1.0*	0.3
Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)										
MSA	†	0.5	6	16	2,726	0.9	1.1	0.5	0.9	0.3
Non-MSA	†	1.0	10	21	1,245	1.6	1.4	0.3	1.4	0.6
Missing	†	4.2	79	104	184	6.5	5.7*	2.8*	3.0*	1.5*
Census Region										
Northeast	†	1.1	15	40	1,526	1.4	2.5	1.1	2.3	0.5
Midwest	†	0.8	12	22	1,373	1.7	1.6	0.7	1.7	0.5
South	†	0.8	8	19	1,849	1.2	1.4	0.3	1.1	0.5
West	†	0.9	12	35	1,236	1.8	2.3	1.1	1.0	0.5

- a Expenses for all prescribed medicines initially purchased or otherwise obtained during the year, as well as any refills, are included. Free samples are included in the estimate of percent of persons with any expense.
- b Private insurance includes CHAMPUS and CHAMPVA (Armed-Forces-related coverage).
- c Other includes other public programs such as Department of Veterans Affairs (except CHAMPVA); other Federal sources (Indian Health Service, military treatment facilities, and other care provided by the Federal Government); other State and local sources (community and neighborhood clinics, State and local health departments, and State programs other than Medicaid); and other public (Medicaid payments reported for persons who were not enrolled in the Medicaid program at any time during the year). Other also includes Worker's Compensation; other unclassified sources (e.g., automobile, homeowner's, liability, and other miscellaneous or unknown sources); and other private insurance (any type of private insurance payments reported for persons without private health insurance coverage during the year, as defined in MEPS).
- d Uninsured refers to persons uninsured during the entire year. Public and private health insurance categories refer to individuals with public or private insurance at any time during the period; individuals with both public and private insurance and those with CHAMPUS or CHAMPVA (Armed-Forces-related coverage) are classified as having insurance.
- e Poor refers to incomes below the Federal poverty line; near poor, over the poverty line through 125 percent of the poverty line; low income, over 125 percent through 200 percent of the poverty line; middle income, over 200 percent to 400 percent of the poverty line; and high income, over 400 percent of the poverty line.
- † Standard error approximately zero because of poststratification to Census Bureau population control tables.
- Less than 100 sample cases.
- * Relative standard error equal to or greater than 30%.

Source: Center for Cost and Financing Studies, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, 1999.