

Table 5. Prescription medicines^a: median and mean expenditures per person with expense and distribution of expenditures by source of payment, U.S., 1997

Population characteristic	Total population (in thousands)	Percent with expense	Annual total expense per person with expense		Percent distribution of total expenses by source of payment							
			Median	Mean	Total expenses (in millions)	Out of Pocket	Private Insurance ^b	Medicare	Medicaid	Other public programs ^c	Other ^d	
Total	271,279	62.1	\$122	\$429	\$72,255	47.2	36.3	3.6	10.4	1.9	0.6	
Age in years												
Under 65	237,093	58.7	90	347	48,199	41.3	44.0	1.0	11.7	1.4	0.6	
Under 6	23,791	61.3	38	85	1,236	41.1	38.4	0.1	19.8	0.3*	0.2*	
6-17	48,127	48.2	43	142	3,296	37.7	43.2	0.0	18.2	0.4*	0.4*	
18-44	108,879	55.9	85	291	17,714	41.8	42.9	0.4*	13.5	0.8	0.6	
45-64	56,295	71.8	271	642	25,953	41.4	45.1	1.5	9.2	2.1	0.7	
65 and over	34,185	86.0	507	819	24,056	59.0	20.9	9.0	7.9	2.7	0.5*	
Sex												
Male	132,605	55.0	94	400	29,117	44.7	38.2	3.9	8.9	3.7	0.6	
Female	138,673	68.9	146	451	43,138	48.9	35.0	3.4	11.5	0.6	0.6	
Race/ethnicity												
White and other	206,082	65.5	141	459	61,984	47.4	38.3	3.4	8.4	1.8	0.6	
Black	34,086	53.0	78	333	6,017	46.0	24.3	3.9	22.9	2.1*	0.7*	
Hispanic	31,111	49.9	62	274	4,255	45.0	23.8	6.4	21.8	2.7*	0.4*	
Health insurance status^{ef}												
Under age 65:												
Any private	173,962	61.6	96	340	36,449	39.9	57.7	0.7	1.1	0.4	0.2*	
Public only	29,828	62.0	82	467	8,628	30.1	2.1	2.6	60.7	3.6	0.9*	
Uninsured	33,304	40.2	58	233	3,122	88.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1*	4.5	
Age 65 and over:												
Medicare only	8,550	81.7	476	716	5,003	78.5	0.0	15.0	0.4*	4.4	1.8*	
Medicare and private	21,690	88.1	516	846	16,164	57.9	30.8	7.4	2.0	1.8	0.1	
Medicare and other public	3,486	85.8	599	933	2,791	30.6	0.0	7.6	55.7	5.0*	1.0*	
Poverty status^g												
Poor	36,415	58.3	96	461	9,790	43.7	12.4	2.8	39.5	1.3	0.3*	
Near-poor	12,233	60.4	129	481	3,555	50.2	16.7	3.0	24.8	3.6	1.7*	
Low income	38,723	57.8	119	429	9,611	57.8	20.7	5.6	12.5	2.0	1.4	
Middle income	89,981	62.2	115	426	23,810	47.9	40.2	4.1	5.4	2.2	0.3*	
High income	93,926	65.5	138	414	25,489	43.5	50.5	2.8	1.2	1.4*	0.6	
Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)^e												
MSA	215,782	61.4	115	412	54,551	45.6	38.6	4.0	9.5	1.8	0.6	
Non-MSA	52,621	65.1	144	479	16,406	52.3	29.7	2.0	13.2	2.1	0.6*	
Census Region												
Northeast	52,394	59.6	133	446	13,935	45.0	34.7	4.8	12.9	1.8	0.8*	
Midwest	63,090	64.4	125	464	18,842	45.3	40.5	2.0	10.0	1.7*	0.6*	
South	94,929	63.6	134	437	26,370	51.2	33.5	2.8	10.1	1.8	0.6*	
West	60,865	59.6	95	362	13,108	44.1	37.7	6.5	9.2	2.2	0.4	
Perceived health status^h												
Under 65 years												
Excellent, very good, or good	217,904	56.5	77	268	33,036	42.4	48.3	0.3*	7.3	1.0	0.6	
Fair or Poor	18,876	84.1	379	950	15,092	38.9	34.6	2.3	21.3	2.3*	0.7	
65 years and over												
Excellent, very good, or good	24,864	83.7	427	701	14,600	59.6	21.5	9.8	5.7	2.8	0.7*	
Fair or Poor	8,890	93.7	781	1,130	9,413	58.0	20.1	7.7	11.3	2.7	0.3*	

^aExpenses for all prescribed medicines initially purchased or otherwise obtained during 1997, as well as any refills, are included. Free samples are included in the estimate of percent of persons with any expense.

^bPrivate insurance includes CHAMPUS and CHAMPVA (Armed-Forces-related coverage).

^cOther public programs include 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).

^dOther 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).

^eNumber of persons and amount of expenses do not add to overall total because data on this variable were not available for some sample persons.

^fUninsured 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.

^gPoor 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.

^hRelative standard error equal to or greater than 30 percent.

Note: These estimates are for a target population of approximately 271.3 million persons who were in the civilian noninstitutionalized population for all or part of 1997. Percents may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: Center for Cost and Financing Studies, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, 1997.