

U.S. Personal Health Care Spending by Age and Gender 2010 Highlights

All Payers: Total Personal Health Care

- In aggregate, female spending was \$1,231 billion and accounted for 56 percent of total personal health care (PHC) spending (females accounted for just over 50 percent of the population). Male spending was \$962 billion and accounted for the remaining 44 percent.
- Per capita health spending for females was \$7,860, 25 percent more than that for males, \$6,313.
- In aggregate, female spending was higher than male spending for every category of PHC goods and services.

Children (0-18)

- Male children had higher total health care expenditures (\$148 billion) than female children (\$137 billion), the only age group where this was true.
- Per capita spending for male children (\$3,680) was 3 percent higher than per capita spending for female children (\$3,572).
- Retail prescription drug spending for male children on a per capita basis (\$257) was 30 percent higher than per capita spending for female children (\$199).

Working-Age Adults (19-64)

- Per capita spending for working-age adult females (\$6,892) was 29 percent higher than male per capita spending (\$5,353).
- Females between ages 19-44 spent 70 percent more per capita than did males in the same age-group. This is the largest difference measured of any age-group, largely due to the costs associated with maternity care.
- In aggregate, Medicaid spending was 35 percent higher for working-age females; however, on a per enrollee basis, males spent approximately 54 percent more than females due to the relatively large portion of disabled male enrollees in this age group.
- Females between ages 19-44 spent 47 percent more than males of the same age-group on retail prescription-drugs.

The Elderly (65 and older)

- Health care spending for elderly females (\$437 billion) accounted for 59 percent of all elderly health care spending similar to their share of the elderly population (58 percent).
- On a per capita basis, elderly female spending (\$19,110) was 9 percent more than male spending (\$17,530), due in part to nursing home spending for females being approximately twice that of males.