

U.S. Personal Health Care Spending By Age and Gender

2012 Highlights

All Payers: Total Personal Health Care

- Overall, female spending reached \$1.3 trillion in 2012 and accounted for nearly 56 percent of total personal health care (PHC) spending (females accounted for just over 50 percent of the population). Male spending totaled over \$1.0 trillion and accounted for the remaining 44 percent.
- Per capita health spending for females was \$8,315 in 2012, approximately 23 percent more than for males, \$6,788.
- During the period 2010 to 2012, female health care spending was higher than male spending for every PHC category of goods and services except for Other Health Residential and Personal Care.

Children (0-18)

- Total health care expenditures for male children in 2012 (\$147 billion) exceeded spending for female children (\$129 billion), the only age group where this occurred.
- Per capita spending for male children (\$3,698) was 9 percent higher than per capita spending for female children (\$3,399) in 2012 compared to 8 percent higher spending by males in 2010.
- Retail prescription drug spending for male children on a per capita basis in 2012 (\$300) was 36 percent higher than per capita spending for female children (\$220).

Working-Age Adults (19-64)

- Per capita spending for working-age adult females in 2012 (\$7,430) was 28 percent higher than male per capita spending (\$5,822).
- Females between ages 19-44 spent 66 percent more per capita in 2012 than did males in the same age-group. The significant difference in spending is largely associated with the costs for maternity care, and females spending over 46 percent more than males on retail prescription-drugs.
- In aggregate in 2012, Medicaid spending was 30 percent higher for females, (\$114,884 vs. \$88,311) however, on a per enrollee basis, males enrolled in Medicaid spent approximately 50 percent more than females in 2012 (\$11,189 vs. \$7,460) (due to the relatively large portion of disabled male enrollees in this age group).

Elderly (65 and older)

- Health care spending for elderly females in 2012 (\$475 billion) accounted for nearly 58 percent of all elderly health care spending comparable to their share of the elderly population (56 percent).
- On a per capita basis, elderly female spending in 2012 (\$19,558) was 7 percent more than male spending (\$18,251), due in part to nursing home and home health spending for females being approximately twice that of males of the same cohort.