

## **National Health Care Spending By Gender and Age**

### **2004 Highlights**

#### **All Payers: Total Personal Health Care**

- In aggregate, female spending was \$887.9 billion and accounted for 57 percent of all personal health care (PHC) spending (females accounted for roughly 50 percent of the population). Male spending was \$662.0 billion and accounted for the remaining 43 percent.
- Female per capita health spending was \$5,989, 32 percent more than that of male spending, \$4,541.
- In aggregate, female spending levels were higher than male spending levels for every PHC good or service. Other Public was the only payer where total health care spending levels were greater for males than females, due to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense expenditures for health care.
- Female hospital expenditures made up approximately one-fifth of total PHC spending, or \$307.0 billion.

#### **Children (0-18)**

- Male children had higher total health expenditures (\$108.8 billion) than female children (\$99.5 billion), the only age group where this is true.
- Per capita spending for male children (\$2,736) was 4 percent higher than the per capita spending for female children (\$2,620).
- Retail drug spending for males on a per capita spending (\$229) was 16 percent more than female children per capita spending (\$197), largely due to comparatively higher spending for ADHD medications.

#### **Working-Age Adults (19-64)**

- Female per capita spending (\$5,202) was 37 percent higher than male per capita spending (\$3,797) for working-age adults.
- Females 19-44 years old spent 73 percent more per capita than did males of the same age. This is the largest difference measured of any age-group, largely due to the high costs associated with maternity care.
- In aggregate, Medicaid spending was 42 percent higher for working-age females; however, on a per enrollee basis, males cost approximately 68 percent more than females due to the relatively large portion of disabled male enrollees in this age group.

#### **The Elderly (65 and older)**

- Health spending for elderly females (\$323.4 billion) was 61 percent of all elderly health care spending and females were 58 percent of the elderly population.
- Elderly female per capita spending (\$15,493) was 12 percent more than male per capita spending (\$13,809), due in part to nursing home per capita spending for females being approximately twice that of males.

## **Hospital**

- Total hospital spending for male children exceeded female children's spending primarily due to conditions related to the treatment of fractures and congenital anomalies.
- Females 19-44 years old spent 65 percent more per capita on hospital services than did males, mostly as a result of expenditures related to maternity care.
- Males 55 years and older spent approximately 7 percent more per capita on hospital services than females of the same age range, partially due to treatment for conditions related to heart disease.

## **Physician and Clinics**

- Female spending (\$230.8 billion) for all ages accounted for 59 percent of total physician and clinical expenditures due in large part to higher spending associated with maternity care. Nearly one-fifth of total physician and clinical expenditures (\$75.5 billion) were for females aged 19-44.
- Female per capita spending for physician and clinical services (\$1,557) was 39 percent higher than male per capita spending (\$1,117).
- Aggregate physician and clinic spending for male children was higher than female children in part as a result of care related to congenital anomalies (such as cleft palate and cleft lip) and ADD/ADHD.

## **Retail Prescription Drugs**

- In total, female prescription-drug spending (\$109.6 billion) was 38 percent higher than male spending (\$79.2 billion).
- Working-age female prescription-drug per capita spending (\$745) was 37 percent more than male spending (\$544), partially due to expenditures for heartburn and birth-control medications, and certain antidepressants.