

Table 5. Prescription medicines^a—median and mean expenses per person with expense and distribution of expenses by source of payment: United States, 1996

Population characteristic	Total population (in thousands)	Percent with expense	Annual total expense per person with expense	
			Median	Mean
Total	268,905	64.9	\$113	\$374
Age in years				
Under 65	234,856	61.6	86	291
Under 6	23,861	65.9	34	79
6-17	47,634	50.4	39	124
18-44	109,149	59.6	86	242
45-64	54,212	73.6	241	556
65 and over	34,050	87.6	466	776
Sex				
Male	131,527	58.3	90	332
Female	137,379	71.3	134	407
Race/ethnicity				
White and other	205,258	68.4	124	394
Black	33,668	54.4	96	323
Hispanic	29,979	52.7	59	253
Health insurance status^{b,c}				
Under age 65:				
Any private	174,231	65.2	90	285
Public only	27,845	64.0	85	387
Uninsured	32,780	40.6	57	212
Age 65 and over:				
Medicare only	7,535	80.2	435	687
Medicare and private	22,811	90.4	472	777
Medicare and other public	3,555	87.7	488	948
Poverty status^d				
Poor	38,298	59.1	88	374
Near-poor	12,946	63.4	137	419
Low income	40,460	60.5	128	415
Middle income	88,262	64.4	102	366
High income	88,939	70.1	125	359
Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)^c				
MSA	213,820	64.8	110	362
Non-MSA	52,443	65.4	122	415
Census Region				
Northeast	51,965	64.6	102	349
Midwest	62,673	68.4	120	394
South	93,901	65.2	131	404
West	60,366	61.1	87	323
Perceived health status^c				
Under 65 years				
Excellent, very good, or good	214,716	59.9	75	230
Fair or poor	18,902	84.5	339	789
65 years and over				
Excellent, very good, or good	24,372	85.5	382	638
Fair or poor	9,222	95.2	782	1,118

Continued

^aAll prescribed medicines that were initially purchased or refilled during 1996 are included.

^bFor health insurance status, 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 private insurance.

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

^dPoor refers to incomes at or 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.

Table 5. Prescription medicines^a—median and mean expenses per person with expense and distribution of expenses by source of payment: United States, 1996 (continued)

Population characteristic	Total expenses (in millions)	Percent distribution of total expenses by source of payment					
		Out of pocket	Private ^e	Medicare	Medicaid	Other public ^f	Other ^g
Total	\$65,292	44.4	40.0	1.5	10.0	2.4	1.6
Age in years							
Under 65	42,144	40.2	44.9	0.2	11.0	2.2	1.5
Under 6	1,239	40.6	42.3	0.0	15.9	*0.6	*0.5
6-17	2,989	36.8	46.7	0.0	15.1	*0.9	*0.5
18-44	15,733	40.1	43.7	*0.2	12.1	*1.5	*2.4
45-64	22,183	40.6	45.7	0.3	9.4	3.0	*1.0
65 and over	23,147	52.1	31.1	3.8	8.3	2.8	1.9
Sex							
Male	25,481	42.0	40.5	1.5	9.6	5.0	1.3
Female	39,811	45.9	39.7	1.4	10.3	0.8	1.8
Race/ethnicity							
White and other	55,385	45.3	41.8	1.5	7.3	2.4	1.6
Black	5,910	40.2	26.9	*1.1	27.7	3.0	*1.1
Hispanic	3,998	37.8	34.5	*2.0	22.1	*1.4	*2.2
Health insurance status^{b,c}							
Under age 65:							
Any private	32,417	39.2	58.1	0.1	1.2	*0.9	*0.5
Public only	6,906	26.1	0.7	0.9	61.1	6.1	*5.1
Uninsured	2,821	85.7	1.6	0.0	1.0	8.3	3.5
Age 65 and over:							
Medicare only	4,152	72.1	1.1	13.1	0.9	6.1	6.8
Medicare and private	16,036	51.2	44.5	1.4	0.8	1.7	*0.4
Medicare and other public	2,955	29.1	0.9	*3.8	59.3	*3.9	*3.0
Poverty status^d							
Poor	8,464	39.0	15.2	1.1	38.7	4.2	*1.9
Near-poor	3,433	52.2	19.5	*5.0	17.1	2.7	*3.4
Low income	10,164	49.9	30.5	*1.8	12.2	3.1	*2.6
Middle income	20,812	43.7	46.4	1.3	4.9	2.1	1.6
High income	22,419	43.5	50.9	*1.1	1.9	1.8	*0.8
Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)^c							
MSA	50,111	42.9	41.9	1.6	9.4	2.4	1.7
Non-MSA	14,243	49.6	34.1	*0.6	12.0	2.4	1.3
Census Region							
Northeast	11,725	40.7	44.6	*1.2	9.2	*2.4	*1.8
Midwest	16,911	44.5	40.3	1.1	9.9	2.6	*1.7
South	24,744	48.4	35.5	1.1	11.1	2.6	1.3
West	11,912	39.6	44.6	3.1	8.8	1.9	*2.0
Perceived health status^c							
Under 65 years							
Excellent, very good, or good	29,510	40.8	49.5	0.2	6.9	1.2	*1.4
Fair or poor	12,609	38.7	34.2	*0.2	20.5	4.7	*1.7
65 years and over							
Excellent, very good, or good	13,289	53.5	33.0	4.0	4.8	2.6	2.1
Fair or poor	9,816	50.3	28.5	3.6	13.0	3.0	*1.6

^aFor source of payment, private includes CHAMPUS and CHAMPVA (Armed-Forces-related coverage).

^fFor source of payment, other public includes 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).

^gFor source of payment, other 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).

*Relative standard error equal to or greater than 30 percent.

Note: Restricted to civilian noninstitutionalized population. 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, 1996.