Health Care Expenses of Adults Aged 18 and Older, by Sex and Source of Payment, 2008

Source III.7: U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Medical Expenditure Panel Survey

In 2008, 90.1 percent of women had at least one health care expenditure, compared to 78.2 percent of men (data not shown). Among adults who had at least one health care expense, the average expenditure per person, including expenses covered by insurance and those paid out-of-pocket, was slightly higher for women ($5,635) than for men ($4,952). However, men’s average expenditures significantly exceeded women’s for hospital inpatient services ($18,984 versus $12,997, respectively). Women’s expenditures significantly exceeded men’s only in the category of office-based medical services ($1,556 versus $1,323, respectively). The overall mean health care expense was greater for women because of the greater percentage of women incurring more expensive services. For instance, 10.8 percent of women had hospital inpatient services, compared to 6.4 percent of men, which contributes to a higher mean expenditure overall. Hospital inpatient services include childbirth delivery.

Overall per capita health care expenditures have increased substantially in the past decade. In 2008, the annual mean health care expenses for women and men were 71.6 and 72.7 percent higher than in 1999 (data not shown).