

Table 147. Department of Veterans Affairs health care expenditures and use, and persons treated, by selected characteristics: United States, selected fiscal years 1970-2009

(Data are compiled from patient records, enrollment information, and budgetary data by the Department of Veterans Affairs)

Type of expenditure and use	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005 ¹	2007 ¹	2008 ¹	2009 ¹
Health care expenditures									
Amount in millions									
All expenditures ²	\$1,689	\$5,981	\$11,500	\$16,126	\$19,327	\$30,291	\$34,025	\$38,282	\$42,955
Percent distribution									
All services.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Inpatient hospital.....	71.3	64.3	57.5	49.0	37.3	24.3	24.0	23.5	22.7
Outpatient care.....	14.0	19.1	25.3	30.2	45.7	53.4	53.5	53.2	53.5
Nursing home care.....	5.5	7.1	9.5	10.0	8.2	8.4	8.3	8.1	7.8
All other ³	9.1	9.6	7.7	10.8	8.8	13.9	14.2	15.2	16.0
Health care use									
Number in thousands									
Inpatient hospital discharges ^{4,5}	787	1,248	1,029	879	579	614	607	622	640
Outpatient visits ⁶	7,312	17,971	22,602	27,527	38,370	57,169	62,234	66,484	73,969
Nursing home discharges ^{5,7}	47	57	75	79	91	61	63	64	65
Inpatients ⁸									
Total.....	---	---	598	527	417	488	477	492	512
Percent distribution									
Total.....	---	---	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Veterans with service-connected disability.....	---	---	38.9	39.3	34.4	37.6	39.9	41.1	42.6
Veterans without service-connected disability.....	---	---	60.3	59.9	64.7	61.5	59.1	58.0	56.4
Low income.....	---	---	54.8	56.2	41.7	39.9	36.9	35.4	34.8
Veterans receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits or who are catastrophically disabled ⁹	---	---	---	---	16.0	12.1	11.3	11.1	10.5
Veterans receiving medical care subject to copayments ¹⁰	---	---	2.8	2.8	5.2	8.6	9.8	10.0	9.5
Other and unknown ¹¹	---	---	2.7	0.9	1.8	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.6
Nonveterans.....	---	---	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
Outpatients ⁸									
Number in thousands									
Total.....	---	---	2,564	2,790	3,657	5,077	5,221	5,291	5,439
Percent distribution									
Total.....	---	---	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Veterans with service-connected disability.....	---	---	38.3	37.5	30.7	31.6	33.8	34.7	37.1
Veterans without service-connected disability.....	---	---	49.8	50.5	60.8	62.7	60.8	59.7	57.2
Low income.....	---	---	41.1	42.2	37.6	31.8	28.9	27.2	25.9
Veterans receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits or who are catastrophically disabled ⁹	---	---	---	---	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4
Veterans receiving medical care subject to copayments ¹⁰	---	---	3.6	4.2	15.4	25.4	25.5	25.2	23.8
Other and unknown ¹¹	---	---	5.1	4.1	4.0	2.0	3.0	3.8	4.0
Nonveterans.....	---	---	11.8	12.0	8.5	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.7

---Data not available.

¹Starting with FY2005, the cost report data are taken from a different report than earlier years.

The major impact of this change was to assign more cost to outpatient care than inpatient hospital. Also in FY2005, the responsibility for residential rehabilitation programs including domiciliary care was reassigned from extended care to mental health care.

²Health care expenditures exclude construction, medical administration, and miscellaneous operating expenses at Department of Veterans Affairs headquarters.

³Includes miscellaneous benefits and services, contract hospitals, education and training, subsidies to state veterans hospitals, nursing homes and residential rehabilitation treatment programs (formerly domiciliaries), and the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

⁴Discharges from medicine, surgery, psychiatry, rehabilitation medicine, spinal cord, and neurology units. Starting with FY2005 data, includes domiciliary care. Does not include long-term stays. One-day dialysis patients were included in 1980. Interfacility transfers were included starting with 1990 data.

⁵Until FY2004, includes Department of Veterans Affairs nursing home and residential rehabilitation treatment programs (formerly domiciliary) stays, and community nursing home care stays.

⁶Hospital outpatient care. Includes the following services: physicians, lab tests, home-based primary care, or outpatient fee-basis care.

⁷Includes state nursing home veteran patients.

⁸Individuals receiving services. Individuals with multiple discharges or visits are only counted once in the inpatient or outpatient category.

The inpatient and outpatient totals are not additive because most inpatients are also treated as outpatients.

⁹Includes veterans who are receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefit and veterans who have been determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be catastrophically disabled.

¹⁰Includes veterans who receive medical care subject to copayments according to income level, based on financial means testing.

¹¹Includes expenditures for services for veterans who were prisoners of war, exposed to Agent Orange, and other. Prior to FY1994, veterans who reported exposure to Agent Orange were classified as having a service-connected disability. Beginning in FY1994, those veterans reporting Agent Orange exposure but not treated for it were means tested and placed in the low income or other group depending on income.

NOTES: Estimates only relate to health care use paid for by the Veteran's Administration. In 1980 and subsequent years, the FY ended September 30. Starting with FY1995 data, categories for health care expenditures and health care use were revised. In FY1999, a new data reporting system was introduced. At the end of FY2009, the veteran population was estimated at 23.1 million, with 40% age 65 and over, compared with 11% in FY1980. Of all living veterans, 10% had served during World War II, 11% during the Korean conflict, 33% during the Vietnam era, 24% during the Persian Gulf War (service from August 2, 1990 to present), and 26% during peacetime. These percentages sum to more than 100% because some veterans serve during more than one war. These data are from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. See Appendix I, Department of Veterans Affairs, National Patient Care Database, Patient Treatment File, and National Enrollment Database. Data for additional years are available. See Appendix III.

SOURCE: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health, National Patient Care Database, National Enrollment Database, budgetary data, and unpublished data. Veteran population estimates were provided by the VA's Office of the Actuary.

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