

Health care spending per person increased to \$5,641 in 2017

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(HealthDay)—In 2017, health care spending per person reached \$5,641,

according to the Health Care Cost Institute (HCCI) annual *Health Care Cost and Utilization Report*.

Researchers from the HCCI examined medical and [prescription drug spending](#), utilization, and average prices based on [health](#) care claims data from 2013 to 2017 for Americans younger than age 65 years covered by employer-sponsored insurance.

According to the report, per-person [spending](#) reached \$5,641 in 2017; this number included amounts paid for medical and pharmacy claims. For the second year running, spending per person increased at a rate greater than 4 percent, with a 4.2 percent increase from 2016 to 2017; this rate was slower than the 4.9 percent rate from 2015 to 2016. During the period from 2013 to 2017, there was very little change in overall use of [health care](#) services, with a 0.2 percent decline. Utilization increased 0.5 percent in 2017 versus 2016. In 2017, there was a 3.6 percent increase in average prices. Through the five-year period, year-over-year growth decelerated, rising 4.8 percent from 2013 to 2014 and only 3.6 percent from 2016 to 2017; this trend reflected a slowing in average point-of-sale prescription drug prices. In 2017, there was an increase of 2.6 percent in out-of-pocket spending per person.

"We find that spending per-person grew 4.2 percent in 2017, consistent with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid estimates of spending by the privately insured," Niall Brennan, president of the HCCI, said in a statement.

More information: [*Health Care Cost and Utilization Report*](#)

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