

## Monitoring Healthcare Performance

### How Well Is the U.S. Healthcare System Performing in Terms of Quality and Cost?

51 %

of U.S. patients are able to make a same-day or next day appointment when they need care.  
[View more.](#)

-32 %

The rate of potentially preventable hospital admissions has decreased from 2000 to 2015.  
[View more.](#)

17.7 %

of the U.S. economy is devoted to healthcare.  
[View more.](#)

### **We cannot improve what we do not measure.**

To accelerate the adoption of innovative solutions that improve the quality of healthcare and lower costs on a national scale, we must first identify and understand our performance. That's why the Center has partnered with grantees, like the Kaiser Family Foundation and the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, on projects to evaluate and track this important information.

## Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker



We work with the Kaiser Family Foundation to monitor the performance of the U.S. healthcare system. The [Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker](#) provides clear, pertinent information on trends and issues that drive its activity.

**What does the Tracker display?** A [dashboard](#) provides a broad view of the system's performance compared to similar countries, and a detailed look at specific indicators within the areas of health spending, quality of care, access and affordability, and health and wellbeing.

With a strong emphasis on data and evidence, the Tracker:

- Addresses key questions through [chart collections](#) and analyses
- Includes [briefs](#) that provide context and synthesize the latest research and developments
- Offers in-depth reviews of topical questions
- Provides up-to-date information on U.S. health spending through [interactive tools](#) so people can explore spending trends

## Forecasting Trends in U.S. Healthcare Spending



### Healthcare spending rose by nearly \$1 trillion between 1996 and 2013.

The Center analyzes the drivers of U.S. healthcare spending to forecast future spending trends. Through a partnership with the [University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation](#) we explored factors that have historically impacted healthcare spending. Our work provides analysis that can guide future policies aimed at moderating the trajectory of healthcare spending and improving outcomes.

A study from this initiative published in the Journal of the American Medical Association [reveals staggering spending increases](#).

**What were the largest contributors to spending growth?** Changes in price and intensity of care led to a 50% spending increase. Additionally, a growing and aging population drove spending increases of 23.1% and 11.6%, respectively.

A [second study](#) from this initiative published in the Journal of the American Medical Association and including three additional years of data found that Americans in 2016 spent an estimated \$380 billion on low back and neck pain, as well as on joint and limb pain, and other musculoskeletal disorders—the highest expenditure of any health condition. More than half of this spend was paid by private insurance, including employer-subsidized plans and policies purchased in the state or federal marketplace, and a large fraction of the spending was associated with working-age adults.



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