

## Price and Intensity Identified as the Major Drivers of Rising Healthcare Spending

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A new study published in [JAMA](#) (The Journal of the American Medical Association) reveals that healthcare spending rose by nearly \$1 trillion between 1996 and 2013. The research, conducted by the University of Washington's [Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation \(IHME\)](#) and funded by the Peterson Center on Healthcare, explored five drivers of this growth in spending:

- A growing population;
- An aging population;
- Changes in disease prevalence and incidence;
- Increases in how often people receive healthcare; and
- Increases in the price and intensity (variety and complexity) of services.

Important takeaways from the study include:

- Healthcare spending increased 80 percent, or \$934 billion, between 1996 and 2013;
- Changes in both the price and intensity of care led to a 50 percent spending increase—by far, the biggest contributors to spending growth; and
- A growing and aging population only drove spending increases of 23.1 percent and 11.6 percent, respectively.

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These findings offer insight into why the U.S. spends so much on healthcare. Since price and intensity are the driving factors, the research suggests the need for more efforts to address those forces that control pricing.

IHME's research reinforces our interest in increasing price transparency and understanding whether more complex services produce better results for patients.

### Our Work With IHME

The article, "Factors Associated With Increases in US Health Care Spending, 1996–2013," was produced as part of a [grant](#) awarded in March 2016 by the Peterson Center on Healthcare to the University of Washington to analyze drivers of healthcare spending and identify future trends to guide efforts to improve health outcomes and bend the cost curve.

For the next phase of the work, IHME will compare the impact of these drivers on public and private payer spending as well as out-of-pocket costs. The institute will then forecast healthcare spending through 2040 and develop alternative scenarios to explore what changes among these drivers could have the greatest impact on slowing healthcare spending.

The objective is for healthcare decision makers and stakeholders to use the historical analysis and future projections to guide investments that will improve outcomes and moderate the trajectory of healthcare spending.

#### Read More:

- [IHME Press Release](#)
- [Tracking Personal Health Care Spending in the US](#)
- [Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker](#)

### Factors Associated With Increases in US Health Care Spending, 1996–2013

[Read the JAMA Article](#)

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