Monitoring Healthcare Performance

A Joint Initiative Between the Peterson Center on Healthcare and Kaiser Family Foundation

We cannot improve what we do not measure. We are working with the Kaiser Family Foundation to monitor how well the U.S. healthcare system is performing in terms of quality and cost. The Peterson-Kaiser Health System Tracker [2] provides clear, up-to-date information on trends, drivers and issues that impact the performance of the system. 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.
Total life expectancy at birth in years, 1980-2016

Canada & France did not report data in 2016. It is not represented in the average calculated for that year.

The Tracker puts a spotlight on performance and facilitates discussion about how the healthcare system can be improved. Visitors to the website, whether they are healthcare providers, employers, payers, consumer advocates or policy makers, will find data analyses that will provide insight as to what is driving the performance of one of the most vital sectors in the U.S. economy.

With a strong emphasis on data and evidence, the Tracker addresses key questions through chart collections and analyses—including briefs that provide context and synthesize the latest research and developments, and offer in-depth reviews of topical questions. The Tracker also provides up-to-date information on U.S. health spending through an interactive tool that allows users to explore spending trends.

**Forecasting Trends in U.S. Healthcare Spending**

The Center partnered with the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation to analyze drivers of U.S. healthcare spending in order to forecast future spending trends. The project explored the various factors that have historically impacted healthcare spending, providing analysis that can guide future policies aimed at moderating the
trajectory of healthcare spending and improving outcomes.


Changes in both the price and intensity of care led to a 50 percent spending increase—by far, the biggest contributors to spending growth. In addition, a growing and aging population drove spending increases of 23.1 percent and 11.6 percent, respectively.

**Price and Intensity Identified as the Major Drivers of Rising Healthcare Spending** [11]

A new study published in *JAMA* reveals that healthcare spending rose by nearly $1 trillion between 1996 and 2013.

[11]
[10] https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2661579?guestAccessKey=63480c5a-0425-44c7-b836-8c067f8611ff