



Are You Covered?

Get the Facts

AARP

- Health care costs are the number one economic concern among Americans.
 - Almost 9 in 10 Americans (87%) are very or somewhat concerned about health or medical costs going up.
 - Almost half (48%) of Americans say the rising cost of health care is among the top 2 or 3 things they are most concerned about today, up 19 points from 1997.
- Eight in ten adults age 18 and older said they are dissatisfied with the “total cost of health care in this country.”

Alzheimer's Association

- Alzheimer's (AHLZ-high-merz) disease is a progressive brain disorder that gradually destroys a person's memory and ability to learn, reason, make judgments, communicate and carry out daily activities. It eventually causes death.
- There are now more than 5 million people in the United States living with Alzheimer's disease. This number includes 4.9 million people over the age of 65 and between 200,000 and 500,000 people under age 65 with early-onset Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.
- Many with Alzheimer's disease who are under 65 lose their employer based health insurance if they leave the workforce and nearly one in three will have no health insurance until they turn 65 and qualify for Medicare. And, regardless of age, very few who have Alzheimer's have any protection for the high costs of long term care, whether in a nursing home or at home or in the community.

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)

- Cancer will be diagnosed in an estimated 1.4 million Americans and will kill an estimated 560,000 Americans this year, or more than 1,500 per day.
- However, we are making progress against cancer. After years of declining death rates, the actual number of cancer deaths declined by 369 in 2003 and by 3,014 in 2004, the first such drops in the 70 years such statistics have been recorded.
- The biggest obstacle we face to defeating cancer is access to quality health care: nearly 1 in 8 cancer patients is uninsured, and 1 in 4 cancer patients below 200 percent of the poverty line is uninsured. Many more of those with cancer have inadequate health plans that may not cover screenings, treatments, and clinical trials.

American Diabetes Association

- Nearly 21 million American children and adults have diabetes. The CDC has estimated that one in three Americans born since 2000 - and one in two minorities - will develop diabetes in their lifetime if current trends continue.
- In 2002, when diabetes prevalence was 30% lower than it is today, the U.S. spent \$132 billion - one in ten U.S. healthcare dollars - on diabetes and its complications.
- Millions of Americans with diabetes have no or substandard health coverage. Lack of access to diabetes supplies, medications and education results to poor management, which leads to serious and costly complications including heart disease and stroke, kidney failure, blindness, and lower-limb amputation.

American Heart Association

- Heart disease and stroke are the nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers. Nearly 80 million, or one in three Americans of all ages, suffer from cardiovascular diseases.
- As the baby boomers age, heart disease deaths are expected to increase 2.5 times faster than the population and ischemic stroke deaths are projected to rise nearly 100% by 2032.
- Treating heart disease and stroke can be very costly. Treatment costs for cardiovascular diseases could rise 64 to 84% by 2025. In this year alone, cardiovascular diseases will cost Americans an estimated \$432 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity.