U.S. Dental Expenditures

2017 Update

Health Policy Institute

ADA American Dental Association®
Key Findings

- Total dental expenditures were $124B in 2016. This was a 3.3% increase from 2015, after adjusting for inflation.

- Per capita total dental expenditures also increased in 2016, for the second year in a row.

- Dental expenditures increased in 2016 for all sources of financing (e.g. out-of-pocket, insurance, CMS programs). The breakdown of expenditure by source of financing was largely unchanged in 2016. However, CMS programs saw a slight increase.

- Total U.S. dental expenditures have increased for two straight years after being flat for several years.
Figure 1 – Total U.S. Dental Expenditures ($ millions)
Dental Expenditures

Figure 2 – National Dental Expenditures per Capita (in constant 2016 dollars)
Figure 3: Average Annual Growth Rate of Overall Health and Dental Expenditures

- 1990-2000: 3.2% Health Expenditure, 3.6% Dental Expenditure
- 2000-2010: 3.4% Health Expenditure, 2.3% Dental Expenditure
- 2010-2015: 1.8% Health Expenditure, 0.0% Dental Expenditure
- 2015-2016: -0.1% Health Expenditure, 2.4% Dental Expenditure
Figure 6: National Dental Expenditures per Capita by Source of Financing (in constant 2016 dollars)
Dental Expenditures

Figure 7: Dental Expenditure as a Share of Total Health Expenditures

- 1990: 4.4%
- 1995: 4.3%
- 2000: 4.5%
- 2005: 4.3%
- 2010: 4.1%
- 2015: 3.7%
- 2016: 3.7%
Data and Methods

• Data are from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The analysis is for 1990 to 2016, the latest year data are available.

• Expenditures are adjusted for inflation using the GDP deflator.

• Analysis was completed December 11, 2017.

• For full methods, see a previous analysis of the data [here](#).