

- The per capita expenditure for prescription drugs for the elderly was almost three times greater than that for the total population, and more than three times greater than that for those under 65.
- The per capita expenditure for elderly women was more than one-third higher than that for elderly men.
- The per capita expenditure for the elderly with severe disabilities was nearly three times greater than that for those with no disabilities.

In general, the survey showed, total prescription drug expenditures in all age groups were higher for women than for men, for whites than for nonwhites, and for those in the South and West. The higher expenditures for whites appear to be a reflection of their greater affluence-- their greater ability to seek medical care and to afford drugs rather than greater health needs. The high cost in the South appear to be related to exceptionally heavy utilization, while in the West they reflect lower utilization but much higher costs per prescription.