



FACT SHEET

FACTS ABOUT OLDER AMERICANS

- Every day 10,000 people turn 65 in the U.S.¹ and the number of Americans ages 65+ is projected to more than double from 46 million to over 98 million in the next three decades.²
- The senior population is expected to grow by 49.5 percent – from approximately 49.36 million to 73.79 million – by 2030. Growth rates will vary by state, from 33.4% in New York to 85.1% in Alaska.³
- For 12 specialty drugs used to treat four health conditions – hepatitis C, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and cancer – Medicare Part D enrollees face at least \$4,000 and as much as nearly \$12,000 in annual out-of-pocket costs in 2016 for one drug alone.⁴
- In 2016, Medicare offered 886 Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) across the 34 PDP regions nationwide (excluding the territories), a 24% drop since 2014 and the smallest number of PDPs available since Part D started in 2006.⁵
- The average cost for a year's supply of 622 prescription drugs widely used by seniors doubled between 2007-2013 to more than \$11,000, which is almost half of the median income for Medicare beneficiaries.⁶
- 90% of older Americans rely on one prescription medication on a regular basis; as many as 40% use five or more weekly; and 12% take at least ten drugs per week.⁷
- As of 2014, 40% of seniors purchased prescription medications online, more than any other age group.⁸
- 58% of senior citizens use the Internet on a regular basis for information, news and email⁹; 78% of people over 65 own a cell phone and 55% own a computer.¹⁰
- Approximately 92% of older adults have at least one chronic disease, and 77% have at least two.¹¹
- Seniors with chronic conditions see an average of 14 different doctors and fill an average of 50 prescriptions a year.¹²
- Between 2000-2010, the average out-of-pocket spending among Medicare beneficiaries increased 44% percent, from \$3,293 to \$4,734.¹³
- People age 65 and older make up 13% of the U.S. population, yet they account for 34% of all prescription medications and 30% of all non-prescription medications.¹⁴

¹ [Harvard Business Review](#), June 2016

² [Aging in the United States](#), Population Reference Bureau, January 2016

³ [America's Health Rankings – Seniors Report](#), UnitedHealth Foundation, June 2016

⁴ [Variation in Out-of-Pocket Costs for Medicare Part D Enrollees in 2016](#), Kaiser Family Foundation, December 2015

⁵ [The Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Benefit](#), Kaiser Family Foundation, November 2015

⁶ [AARP Rx Price Watch Report](#), February 2016

⁷ [Aging and Drugs](#), J. Mark Ruscini, PharmD, Sunny A. Linnebur, PharmD, FCCP, BCPS, CGP

⁸ [Seniors 2014: Beyond the Wishful 'Silver Surfers' Label](#), emarketer.com, 2014

⁹ [Americans' Internet Access \(2000-2015\)](#), Pew Research Center, 2016

¹⁰ [Demographics of Device Ownership](#), Pew Research Center, 2015

¹¹ [Healthy Aging Facts](#), National Council on Aging

¹² [Medicare and the Affordable Care Act](#), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

¹³ [How Much is Enough? Out-of-Pocket Spending Among Medicare Beneficiaries](#), Kaiser Family Foundation, 2014

FACTS ABOUT ONLINE PHARMACIES

- Currently there are 35,000 active online drug sellers¹⁵; a recent review of more than 11,000 websites selling prescription medications online to U.S. consumers found approximately 96 percent appear to be in conflict with U.S. laws and pharmacy practice standards¹⁶; and 50% of medicines sold online are fake or counterfeit.¹⁷
- Medicines sold online often contain little or no active ingredients; are manufactured in unsafe conditions; and/or contain floor wax, mercury, concrete, chalk, boric acid, road tar, paint, anti-freeze and other poisons.¹⁸
- Counterfeit drugs are responsible for up to 1 million deaths annually worldwide¹⁹; and the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated the counterfeit drug trade was \$431 billion a year industry in 2012.²⁰
- Nearly one in four adult Internet consumers has purchased prescription medicine online and almost one in five of those indicated that they bought from a website that was not associated with a local pharmacy or health insurance plan.²¹
- Buying prescription medicines from illegal online pharmacies increases the risk of credit card and identity theft.²²
- Online pharmacies that display the VIPPS seal have successfully undergone the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy's rigorous screening process, which includes a thorough review of all policies and procedures as well as on-site inspections of facilities used by the site to receive, review and dispense medicine.²³

FACTS ABOUT HEALTHCARE SPENDING IN THE U.S.

- U.S. spending on prescription drugs is projected to continue climbing faster than overall health care expenditures; cumulatively from 2013 to 2018, prescription drug spending is predicted to rise by an average of 7.3% annually.²⁴
- Total prescriptions dispensed in 2015 reached 4.5 billion and total spending on medicines in the U.S. reached \$310 billion in 2015, up 8.5 percent from the previous year.²⁵
- Two-thirds of traditional Medicare beneficiaries 65 and older have multiple chronic conditions and more than 4 million (about 15%) have at least six long-term ailments. Those sickest seniors account for more than 41% of the \$324 billion spent on traditional Medicare.²⁶

¹⁴ [State of Aging and Health in America, 2004](#), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

¹⁵ [The Internet Pharmacy Market in 2016](#), Center for Safe Internet Pharmacies and LegitScript, January 2016

¹⁶ [Internet Drug Outlet Identification Program](#), National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, April 2016

¹⁷ [Substandard, Spurious, Falsely Labelled, Falsified and Counterfeit Medical Products](#), World Health Organization

¹⁸ [Poisons Found in Counterfeit Medicines](#), Partnership for Safe Medicines,

¹⁹ [Counterfeit Drugs Kill 1 Million People Annually](#), Interpol, 2013

²⁰ [Policy Innovation Memorandum, No. 21](#), Council on Foreign Relations

²¹ [Buying Prescription Medicines Online](#), U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 2013

²² [What You Need to Know Before You Buy Prescription Medications Online](#), Disease Management, 2015

²³ [Buying Medicines Online](#), National Association of Boards of Pharmacy

²⁴ [Observations in Healthcare Spending](#), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 2016

²⁵ [Medicines Use and Spending in the U.S.: A Review of 2015 and Outlook to 2020](#), IMS 2016

²⁶ [Nation's Sickest Seniors Account for Half of Medicare Spending](#), USA Today, 2015