

# Mental disorders were most costly in U.S. in 2013

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(HealthDay)—Mental disorders were the most costly conditions in the

United States in 2013, with a cost of \$201 billion, according to a study published in the May issue of *Health Affairs*.

Charles Roehrig, Ph.D., from the Altarum Institute in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and examined the allocation of spending across [medical conditions](#) in the United States.

Roehrig notes that in 1996, the most costly medical conditions were heart conditions (\$105 billion), followed by mental disorders (\$79 billion). In 2004, these conditions had equal spending (\$131 billion each), while in 2013, spending on mental disorders had exceeded that of heart conditions, with spending of \$201 billion, compared with \$147 billion on heart conditions. The average annual growth rate in spending on mental disorders was 5.6 percent, compared with 2 percent for spending on heart conditions. Most of the fastest-growing medical conditions in terms of spending were medical conditions associated with obesity; most of the spending growth rates were too high to be explained by obesity-induced increased disease prevalence, and were likely due to the introduction of expensive new treatments.

"A look ahead suggests that reductions in deaths from [heart conditions](#) and cerebrovascular disease are likely to drive spending on mental disorders even higher, as more people survive to older ages—when [mental disorders](#), such as dementia, become more prevalent," the author writes.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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