

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Data

Table F.4. Top 10 classes of Part D prescription drugs by utilization and cost (in millions), 2013–2022

2022

2022 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	53,042,603
Total prescription drug events (PDEs) (fills)	1,547,196,214
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$240,490

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	468,227,057	30.3%
Central nervous system agents	2	384,911,022	24.9%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	195,935,279	12.7%
Autonomic drugs	4	179,433,990	11.6%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	97,532,320	6.3%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	91,958,851	5.9%
Anti-infective agents	7	82,411,099	5.3%
Respiratory tract agents	8	74,273,957	4.8%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preps	9	59,185,629	3.8%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	49,787,613	3.2%

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by gross cost** (rounded to millions)

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Total gross cost** (millions)	Percent gross costs
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	1	\$58,062	24.1%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	2	\$34,746	14.4%
Antineoplastic agents	3	\$32,265	13.4%
Central nervous system agents	4	\$27,746	11.5%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	5	\$23,803	9.9%
Respiratory tract agents	6	\$23,506	9.8%
Skin and mucous membrane agents	7	\$17,815	7.4%
Cardiovascular drugs	8	\$17,702	7.4%
Autonomic drugs	9	\$14,925	6.2%
Gastrointestinal drugs	10	\$13,913	5.8%

* Includes all Medicare beneficiaries who enrolled in Medicare Part D on or after January 1, YYYY.

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† Therapeutic class as defined by American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (AHFS). It is possible that AHFS may include a drug in more than one class.

2021

2021 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	51,607,624
Total prescription drug events (PDEs) (fills)	1,503,497,227
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$215,766

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	458,216,903	30.5%
Central nervous system agents	2	379,575,673	25.2%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	189,130,783	12.6%
Autonomic drugs	4	177,058,178	11.8%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	98,322,147	6.5%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	89,155,915	5.9%
Anti-infective agents	7	72,947,460	4.9%
Respiratory tract agents	8	71,745,643	4.8%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preps	9	57,355,551	3.8%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	49,043,211	3.3%

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by gross cost** (rounded to millions)

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Total gross cost** (millions)	Percent gross costs
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	1	\$50,840	23.6%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	2	\$31,139	14.4%
Antineoplastic agents	3	\$28,953	13.4%
Central nervous system agents	4	\$25,741	11.9%
Respiratory tract agents	5	\$22,109	10.2%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	6	\$20,503	9.5%
Cardiovascular drugs	7	\$16,850	7.8%
Autonomic drugs	8	\$15,566	7.2%
Skin and mucous membrane agents	9	\$14,496	6.7%
Gastrointestinal drugs	10	\$12,797	5.9%

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2020

2020 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	49,942,920
Total prescription drug events (PDEs) (fills)	1,500,417,317
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$198,698

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	458,910,855	30.6%
Central nervous system agents	2	381,075,434	25.4%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	188,462,314	12.6%
Autonomic drugs	4	178,807,754	11.9%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	101,599,041	6.8%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	87,963,247	5.9%
Respiratory tract agents	7	72,822,404	4.9%
Anti-infective agents	8	72,420,120	4.8%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preps	9	56,707,003	3.8%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	49,095,175	3.3%

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by gross cost** (rounded to millions)

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Total gross cost** (millions)	Percent gross costs
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	1	\$46,177	23.2%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	2	\$27,766	14.0%
Antineoplastic agents	3	\$25,707	12.9%
Central nervous system agents	4	\$24,725	12.4%
Respiratory tract agents	5	\$21,137	10.6%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	6	\$17,420	8.8%
Cardiovascular drugs	7	\$16,851	8.5%
Autonomic drugs	8	\$16,311	8.2%
Skin and mucous membrane agents	9	\$12,453	6.3%
Anti-infective agents	10	\$12,277	6.2%

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2019

2019 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	48,382,156
Total prescription drug events (PDEs) (fills)	1,506,022,691
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$183,216

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	455,105,557	30.2%
Central nervous system agents	2	379,729,595	25.2%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	188,437,560	12.5%
Autonomic drugs	4	178,016,338	11.8%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	103,676,346	6.9%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	91,632,291	6.1%
Anti-infective agents	7	79,503,896	5.3%
Respiratory tract agents	8	69,776,910	4.6%
Eye, ear, nose and throat (EENT) preps.	9	58,932,064	3.9%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	48,658,859	3.2%

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by gross cost** (rounded to millions)

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Total gross cost** (millions)	Percent gross costs
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	1	\$42,412	23.1%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	2	\$25,483	13.9%
Central nervous system agents	3	\$25,189	13.7%
Antineoplastic agents	4	\$21,907	12.0%
Respiratory tract agents	5	\$18,349	10.0%
Cardiovascular drugs	6	\$15,939	8.7%
Autonomic drugs	7	\$15,889	8.7%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	8	\$14,147	7.7%
Anti-infective agents	9	\$12,516	6.8%
Skin and mucous membrane agents	10	\$11,065	6.0%

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2018

2018 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	46,763,418
Total prescription drug events (PDEs) (fills)	1,503,275,635
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$168,159

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	458,876,503	30.5%
Central nervous system agents	2	382,622,306	25.5%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	186,217,994	12.4%
Autonomic drugs	4	178,859,424	11.9%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	106,356,572	7.1%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	94,861,760	6.3%
Anti-infective agents	7	78,448,377	5.2%
Respiratory tract agents	8	68,165,526	4.5%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preps	9	58,372,352	3.9%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	47,779,898	3.2%

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by gross cost** (rounded to millions)

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Total gross cost** (millions)	Percent gross costs
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	1	\$38,838	23.1%
Central nervous system agents	2	\$24,896	14.8%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	3	\$22,796	13.6%
Antineoplastic agents	4	\$18,585	11.1%
Respiratory tract agents	5	\$17,086	10.2%
Autonomic drugs	6	\$15,689	9.3%
Cardiovascular drugs	7	\$15,575	9.3%
Anti-infective agents	8	\$12,676	7.5%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	9	\$11,066	6.6%
Gastrointestinal drugs	10	\$10,125	6.0%

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2017

2017 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	45,235,350
Total prescription drug events (fills)	1,498,747,078
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$154,940

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	461,562,124	30.8%
Central nervous system agents	2	385,261,062	25.7%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	185,622,637	12.4%
Autonomic drugs	4	178,431,823	11.9%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	108,038,197	7.2%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	95,452,742	6.4%
Anti-infective agents	7	77,297,151	5.2%
Respiratory tract agents	8	66,971,588	4.5%
Eye, ear, nose and throat (EENT) preps.	9	57,140,190	3.8%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	46,870,876	3.1%

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by gross cost** (rounded to millions)

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Total gross cost** (millions)	Percent gross costs
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	1	\$35,638	23.0%
Central nervous system agents	2	\$23,611	15.2%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	3	\$20,831	13.4%
Cardiovascular drugs	4	\$16,233	10.5%
Respiratory tract agents	5	\$15,295	9.9%
Antineoplastic agents	6	\$15,088	9.7%
Autonomic drugs	7	\$14,485	9.3%
Anti-infective agents	8	\$13,123	8.5%
Gastrointestinal drugs	9	\$9,227	6.0%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	\$8,475	5.5%

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2016

2016 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	43,587,021
Total prescription drug events (fills)	1,484,292,923
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$146,174

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	464,978,356	31.3%
Central nervous system agents	2	382,438,408	25.8%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	177,731,948	12.0%
Autonomic drugs	4	174,849,704	11.8%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	110,060,489	7.4%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	94,870,517	6.4%
Anti-infective agents	7	74,162,821	5.0%
Respiratory tract agents	8	65,290,776	4.4%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preps.	9	55,598,089	3.7%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	46,120,066	3.1%

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by gross cost** (rounded to millions)

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Total gross cost** (millions)	Percent gross costs
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	1	\$30,191	20.7%
Central nervous system agents	2	\$23,422	16.0%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	3	\$19,557	13.4%
Cardiovascular drugs	4	\$18,212	12.5%
Anti-infective agents	5	\$14,329	9.8%
Respiratory tract agents	6	\$13,743	9.4%
Autonomic drugs	7	\$13,127	9.0%
Antineoplastic agents	8	\$12,579	8.6%
Gastrointestinal drugs	9	\$8,639	5.9%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	\$6,571	4.5%

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2015

2015 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	41,859,463
Total prescription drug events (fills)	1,450,303,753
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$137,403

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	458,175,257	31.6%
Central nervous system agents	2	373,305,506	25.7%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	171,805,451	11.8%
Autonomic drugs	4	166,059,154	11.4%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	109,569,143	7.6%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	92,854,710	6.4%
Anti-infective agents	7	73,248,507	5.1%
Respiratory tract agents	8	63,672,262	4.4%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preps	9	54,012,452	3.7%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	44,639,900	3.1%

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by gross cost** (rounded to millions)

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Total gross cost** (millions)	Percent gross costs
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	1	\$26,625	19.4%
Central nervous system agents	2	\$24,210	17.6%
Cardiovascular drugs	3	\$18,066	13.1%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	4	\$16,658	12.1%
Anti-infective agents	5	\$16,206	11.8%
Autonomic drugs	6	\$12,391	9.0%
Respiratory tract agents	7	\$12,126	8.8%
Antineoplastic agents	8	\$9,934	7.2%
Gastrointestinal drugs	9	\$8,211	6.0%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	\$5,122	3.7%

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2014

2014 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	39,995,519
Total prescription drug events (fills)	1,417,304,006
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$121,483

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	454,033,852	32.0%
Central nervous system agents	2	365,615,816	25.8%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	165,670,786	11.7%
Autonomic drugs	4	161,206,675	11.4%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	109,711,364	7.7%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	90,413,145	6.4%
Anti-infective agents	7	69,199,361	4.9%
Respiratory tract agents	8	60,955,267	4.3%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preps	9	51,851,019	3.7%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	10	43,745,535	3.1%

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by gross cost** (rounded to millions)

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Total gross cost** (millions)	Percent gross costs
Central nervous system agents	1	\$24,759	20.4%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	2	\$22,396	18.4%
Cardiovascular drugs	3	\$18,503	15.2%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	4	\$13,615	11.2%
Anti-infective agents	5	\$11,402	9.4%
Autonomic drugs	6	\$11,343	9.3%
Respiratory tract agents	7	\$10,530	8.7%
Gastrointestinal drugs	8	\$7,660	6.3%
Antineoplastic agents	9	\$7,435	6.1%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	\$4,191	3.5%

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2013

2013 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	37,839,618
Total prescription drug events (fills)	1,371,343,181
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$103,700

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	447,058,881	32.6%
Central nervous system agents	2	350,212,001	25.5%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	159,283,539	11.6%
Autonomic drugs	4	157,151,821	11.5%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	108,817,595	7.9%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	86,233,033	6.3%
Anti-infective agents	7	66,211,345	4.8%
Respiratory tract agents	8	57,993,499	4.2%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preparations	9	48,496,797	3.5%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	42,706,292	3.1%

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by gross cost** (rounded to millions)

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Total gross cost** (millions)	Percent gross costs
Central nervous system agents	1	\$22,872	22.1%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	2	\$18,239	17.6%
Cardiovascular drugs	3	\$18,216	17.6%
Autonomic drugs	4	\$10,435	10.1%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	5	\$10,139	9.8%
Respiratory tract agents	6	\$9,208	8.9%
Gastrointestinal drugs	7	\$6,900	6.7%
Anti-infective agents	8	\$6,385	6.2%
Anti-neoplastic agents	9	\$5,435	5.2%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	\$3,649	3.5%

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