From the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health, Tampa, Florida...

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http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/Pub_ProdResults_Details.jsp?pt=Statistical%20Brief&opt=2&id=903

This Statistical Brief presents data from the Household Component of the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS-HC) regarding direct payment (e.g., private, out-of-pocket, Medicaid, etc.) for the medical treatment of children ages 0 - 17 in 2006. The top five most costly conditions were: mental disorders, asthma, trauma-related disorders, acute bronchitis, and infectious diseases. Data do not include over-the-counter medications or ambulance services.

- Although the highest yearly expenditures were for the treatment of mental health disorders ($8.9 billion), comparatively few children received these services; the average yearly expenditure for treatment was $1,931 per child.
- $6.1 billion went toward the treatment of trauma-related disorders (physical injuries from accidents or violence), averaging $910 per child.
- Medicaid paid for 35.2% of the expenditures for the treatment of mental health disorders and 11.5% for trauma-related disorders.
- Out-of-pocket expenditures were highest for the treatment of mental health disorders.

The MEPS-HC is a nationally representative longitudinal study of health care utilization, expenditures, insurance, health status, access to care and satisfaction with care and other characteristics among the U.S. non-institutionalized population. The Household Component of the MEPS was designed in 1996; it “introduces a new panel or sample of households into the survey every year and is conducted continually rather than once every 10 years.” For information about the survey background, see
http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/about_meps/survey_back.jsp#Earlier_Surveys_and_MEPS

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The current Data Trends is produced by the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, Tampa, http://datatrends.fmhi.usf.edu/ The Tampa RTC produces two Data Trends products: 1) Summaries (ISSN# 1537-0399), which detail recent, published articles on systems of care for children with emotional and behavioral disabilities and their families, and; 2) News briefs (ISSN# 1537-0402), which highlight related items or events of interest to the field. You are welcome to forward this correspondence. Please send “Subscribe” or “Unsubscribe” requests for Data Trends (Tampa RTC only) to Catherine Newman, cnewman@fmhi.usf.edu

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website for their Data Trends subscription services,
http://www.rtc.pdx.edu/pgDataTrends.shtml