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From: Newman, Catherine
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To: Newman, Catherine
Subject: Data Trends> News 0149

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

Soni, A. (2009, April 17). The five most costly children's conditions, 2006: Estimates for the U.S. civilian noninstitutionalized children, ages 0-17, *MEPS Statistical Brief 242*, 1-5. [Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality].

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>