

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Data

Table F.4. Top 10 classes of Part D prescription drugs by utilization and cost (in millions), 2012–2021

2021

2021 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	51,607,624
Total prescription drug events (PDEs) (fills)	1,503,063,237
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$215,703

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	458,104,912	30.5%
Central nervous system agents	2	379,428,392	25.2%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	189,077,043	12.6%
Autonomic drugs	4	177,011,714	11.8%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	98,298,437	6.5%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	89,130,354	5.9%
Anti-infective agents	7	72,924,305	4.9%
Respiratory tract agents	8	71,724,366	4.8%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preps.	9	57,341,072	3.8%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	49,033,823	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	\$50,827	23.6%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	2	\$31,129	14.4%
Antineoplastic agents	3	\$28,948	13.4%
Central nervous system agents	4	\$25,727	11.9%
Respiratory tract agents	5	\$22,103	10.2%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	6	\$20,499	9.5%
Cardiovascular drugs	7	\$16,846	7.8%
Autonomic drugs	8	\$15,563	7.2%
Skin and mucous membrane agents	9	\$14,491	6.7%
Anti-infective agents	10	\$12,793	5.9%

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

** The Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) team obtains total cost by summing the gross cost of each prescription drug event (PDE). These costs do not reflect the savings due to manufacturers' rebates or other price concessions. The costs are not indicative of the full cost to CMS for the Part D program. The CCW team rounds and expresses dollars in millions.

† 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.

2020

2020 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	49,942,920
Total prescription drug events (PDEs) (fills)	1,496,057,259
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$198,111

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	457,350,646	30.6%
Central nervous system agents	2	380,268,957	25.4%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	187,908,048	12.6%
Autonomic drugs	4	178,273,563	11.9%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	101,266,344	6.8%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	87,719,849	5.9%
Respiratory tract agents	7	72,641,502	4.9%
Anti-infective agents	8	72,211,129	4.8%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preps.	9	56,504,044	3.8%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	48,916,771	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	\$46,056	23.2%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	2	\$27,672	14.0%
Antineoplastic agents	3	\$25,604	12.9%
Central nervous system agents	4	\$24,683	12.5%
Respiratory tract agents	5	\$21,077	10.6%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	6	\$17,340	8.8%
Cardiovascular drugs	7	\$16,794	8.5%
Autonomic drugs	8	\$16,264	8.2%
Skin and mucous membrane agents	9	\$12,408	6.3%
Anti-infective agents	10	\$12,264	6.2%

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

** The Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) team obtains total cost by summing the gross cost of each prescription drug event (PDE). These costs do not reflect the savings due to manufacturers' rebates or other price concessions. The costs are not indicative of the full cost to CMS for the Part D program. The CCW team rounds and expresses dollars in millions.

† 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.

2019

2019 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	48,382,156
Total prescription drug events (PDEs) (fills)	1,505,681,404
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$183,174

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	455,012,618	30.2%
Central nervous system agents	2	379,627,627	25.2%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	188,393,244	12.5%
Autonomic drugs	4	177,981,646	11.8%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	103,655,548	6.9%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	91,611,466	6.1%
Anti-infective agents	7	79,483,380	5.3%
Respiratory tract agents	8	69,760,409	4.6%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preparations	9	58,919,412	3.9%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	10	48,651,337	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	\$42,403	23.1%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	2	\$25,476	13.9%
Central nervous system agents	3	\$25,182	13.7%
Antineoplastic agents	4	\$21,903	12.0%
Respiratory tract agents	5	\$18,345	10.0%
Cardiovascular drugs	6	\$15,936	8.7%
Autonomic drugs	7	\$15,886	8.7%
Blood formation, coagulation, thrombosis	8	\$14,145	7.7%
Anti-infective agents	9	\$12,513	6.8%
Skin and mucous membrane agents	10	\$11,063	6.0%

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

** The Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) team obtains total cost by summing the gross cost of each prescription drug event (PDE). These costs do not reflect the savings due to manufacturers' rebates or other price concessions. The costs are not indicative of the full cost to CMS for the Part D program. The CCW team rounds and expresses dollars in millions.

† 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.

2018

2018 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	46,763,418
Total prescription drug events (PDEs) (fills)	1,502,912,846
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$168,120

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	458,776,752	30.5%
Central nervous system agents	2	382,513,762	25.5%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	186,171,355	12.4%
Autonomic drugs	4	178,822,278	11.9%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	106,334,701	7.1%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	94,838,705	6.3%
Anti-infective agents	7	78,426,871	5.2%
Respiratory tract agents	8	68,148,035	4.5%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preparations	9	58,358,538	3.9%
Blood formation, coagulation, and thrombosis	10	47,771,867	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	\$38,829	23.1%
Central nervous system agents	2	\$24,889	14.8%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	3	\$22,791	13.6%
Antineoplastic agents	4	\$18,582	11.1%
Respiratory tract agents	5	\$17,082	10.2%
Autonomic drugs	6	\$15,686	9.3%
Cardiovascular drugs	7	\$15,572	9.3%
Anti-infective agents	8	\$12,672	7.5%
Blood formation, coagulation, and thrombosis	9	\$11,064	6.6%
Gastrointestinal drugs	10	\$10,122	6.0%

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

** The Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) team obtains total cost by summing the gross cost of each prescription drug event (PDE). These costs do not reflect the savings due to manufacturers' rebates or other price concessions. The costs are not indicative of the full cost to CMS for the Part D program. The CCW team rounds and expresses dollars in millions.

† 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.

2017

2017 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	45,235,350
Total prescription drug events (fills)	1,498,436,464
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$154,833

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	461,268,764	30.8%
Central nervous system agents	2	384,982,200	25.7%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	185,488,587	12.4%
Autonomic drugs	4	178,322,397	11.9%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	107,973,854	7.2%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	95,391,293	6.4%
Anti-infective agents	7	77,240,225	5.2%
Respiratory tract agents	8	66,922,759	4.5%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preparations	9	57,108,674	3.8%
Blood formation, coagulation, and thrombosis	10	46,850,215	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	\$35,613	23.0%
Central nervous system agents	2	\$23,595	15.2%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	3	\$20,816	13.4%
Cardiovascular drugs	4	\$16,224	10.5%
Respiratory tract agents	5	\$15,285	9.9%
Anti-neoplastic agents	6	\$15,076	9.7%
Autonomic drugs	7	\$14,477	9.4%
Anti-infective agents	8	\$13,109	8.5%
Gastrointestinal drugs	9	\$9,221	6.0%
Blood formation, coagulation, and thrombosis	10	\$8,471	5.5%

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

** The Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) team obtains total cost by summing the gross cost of each prescription drug event (PDE). These costs do not reflect the savings due to manufacturers' rebates or other price concessions. The costs are not indicative of the full cost to CMS for the Part D program. The CCW team rounds and expresses dollars in millions.

† 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.

2016

2016 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	43,587,021
Total prescription drug events (fills)	1,484,005,937
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$146,144

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	464,896,844	31.3%
Central nervous system agents	2	382,352,692	25.8%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	177,695,347	12.0%
Autonomic drugs	4	174,820,297	11.8%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	110,041,532	7.4%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	94,851,925	6.4%
Anti-infective agents	7	74,144,886	5.0%
Respiratory tract agents	8	65,277,276	4.4%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preparations	9	55,587,589	3.7%
Blood formation, coagulation, and thrombosis	10	46,114,665	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	\$30,186	20.7%
Central nervous system agents	2	\$23,595	15.2%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	3	\$19,551	13.4%
Cardiovascular drugs	4	\$18,209	12.5%
Anti-infective agents	5	\$14,324	9.8%
Respiratory tract agents	6	\$13,741	9.4%
Autonomic drugs	7	\$13,125	9.0%
Anti-neoplastic agents	8	\$12,577	8.6%
Gastrointestinal drugs	9	\$8,637	5.9%
Blood formation, coagulation, and thrombosis	10	\$6,570	4.5%

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

** The Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) team obtains total cost by summing the gross cost of each prescription drug event (PDE). These costs do not reflect the savings due to manufacturers' rebates or other price concessions. The costs are not indicative of the full cost to CMS for the Part D program. The CCW team rounds and expresses dollars in millions.

† 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.

2015

2015 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	41,859,463
Total prescription drug events (fills)	1,450,055,791
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$137,378

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	458,104,565	31.6%
Central nervous system agents	2	373,233,096	25.7%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	171,773,348	11.8%
Autonomic drugs	4	166,034,786	11.5%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	109,552,608	7.6%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	92,838,054	6.4%
Anti-infective agents	7	73,232,667	5.1%
Respiratory tract agents	8	63,660,346	4.4%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preparations	9	54,003,398	3.7%
Blood formation, coagulation, and thrombosis	10	44,634,950	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	\$26,620	19.4%
Central nervous system agents	2	\$24,205	17.6%
Cardiovascular drugs	3	\$18,063	13.1%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	4	\$16,653	12.1%
Anti-infective agents	5	\$16,202	11.8%
Autonomic drugs	6	\$12,389	9.0%
Respiratory tract agents	7	\$12,124	8.8%
Anti-neoplastic agents	8	\$9,933	7.2%
Gastrointestinal drugs	9	\$8,209	6.0%
Blood formation, coagulation, and thrombosis	10	\$5,122	3.7%

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

** The Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) team obtains total cost by summing the gross cost of each prescription drug event (PDE). These costs do not reflect the savings due to manufacturers' rebates or other price concessions. The costs are not indicative of the full cost to CMS for the Part D program. The CCW team rounds and expresses dollars in millions.

† 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.

2014

2014 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	39,995,519
Total prescription drug events (fills)	1,417,056,465
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$121,460

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	453,964,606	32.0%
Central nervous system agents	2	365,538,933	25.8%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	165,640,365	11.7%
Autonomic drugs	4	161,182,036	11.4%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	109,694,701	7.7%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	90,396,048	6.4%
Anti-infective agents	7	69,184,284	4.9%
Respiratory tract agents	8	60,943,598	4.3%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preparations	9	51,842,406	3.7%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	10	43,737,043	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	\$24,754	20.4%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	2	\$22,392	18.4%
Cardiovascular drugs	3	\$18,500	15.2%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	4	\$13,612	11.2%
Anti-infective agents	5	\$11,399	9.4%
Autonomic drugs	6	\$11,341	9.3%
Respiratory tract agents	7	\$10,528	8.7%
Gastrointestinal drugs	8	\$7,658	6.3%
Anti-neoplastic agents	9	\$7,434	6.1%
Blood formation, coagulation, and thrombosis	10	\$4,191	3.5%

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

** The Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) team obtains total cost by summing the gross cost of each prescription drug event (PDE). These costs do not reflect the savings due to manufacturers' rebates or other price concessions. The costs are not indicative of the full cost to CMS for the Part D program. The CCW team rounds and expresses dollars in millions.

† 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.

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, and 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, and thrombosis	10	\$3,649	3.5%

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

** The Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) team obtains total cost by summing the gross cost of each prescription drug event (PDE). These costs do not reflect the savings due to manufacturers' rebates or other price concessions. The costs are not indicative of the full cost to CMS for the Part D program. The CCW team rounds and expresses dollars in millions.

† 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.

2012

2012 annual summary	Total
Number of beneficiaries enrolled in Part D*	33,789,486
Total prescription drug events (fills)	1,216,491,345
Total drug costs** (gross costs; rounded to millions)	\$89,831

Top 10 drugs (broad therapeutic class†) by use

Broad therapeutic class†	Rank	Number of prescription fills	Percent PDEs
Cardiovascular drugs	1	411,121,884	33.8%
Central nervous system agents	2	286,654,387	23.6%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	144,565,417	11.9%
Autonomic drugs	4	144,033,509	11.8%
Electrolytic, caloric, and water balance	5	100,662,487	8.3%
Gastrointestinal drugs	6	76,800,166	6.3%
Anti-infective agents	7	59,589,597	4.9%
Respiratory tract agents	8	52,036,246	4.3%
Eye, ear, nose, and throat (EENT) preparations	9	42,532,454	3.5%
Blood formation, coagulation, and thrombosis	10	39,631,692	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
Central nervous system agents	1	\$20,653	23.0%
Cardiovascular drugs	2	\$17,173	19.1%
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	3	\$14,210	15.8%
Autonomic drugs	4	\$8,742	9.7%
Respiratory tract agents	5	\$8,144	9.1%
Miscellaneous therapeutic agents	6	\$7,113	7.9%
Anti-infective agents	7	\$5,677	6.3%
Gastrointestinal drugs	8	\$4,906	5.5%
Blood formation, coagulation, and thrombosis	9	\$4,392	4.9%
Anti-neoplastic agents	10	\$3,518	3.9%

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

** The Chronic Conditions Warehouse (CCW) team obtains total cost by summing the gross cost of each prescription drug event (PDE). These costs do not reflect the savings due to manufacturers' rebates or other price concessions. The costs are not indicative of the full cost to CMS for the Part D program. The CCW team rounds and expresses dollars in millions.

† 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.