

Health Care Costs 101 Intro

Drew Altman
President and CEO
The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

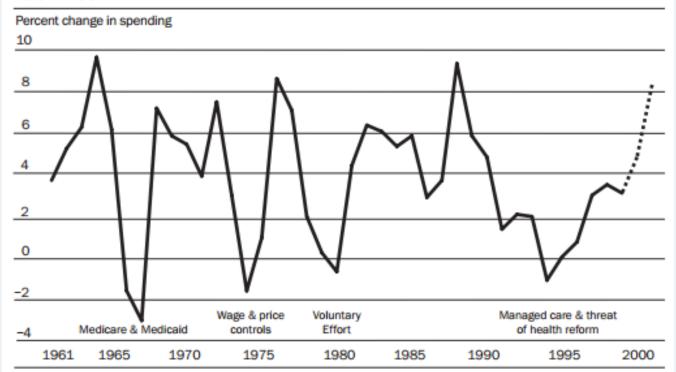
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Sad History of Health Care Cost Containment

COMMENTARY

EXHIBIT 1

Annual Change In Private Health Spending Per Capita (Adjusted For Inflation), 1961–2001



SOURCES: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation analysis. Private health expenditures per capita, 1960–1999, are from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Change in private spending per capita, 2000–2001, is estimated based on average premium increases for employer-sponsored coverage from the Kaiser/HRET Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Benefits.

NOTES: Real change in spending is calculated using the Consumer Price Index (CPHU) all items, average annual change for 1961–2000 and July-to-July change for 2001. This analysis was inspired by an analysis done by Jeff Merrill and Richard Wassermann more than fifteen years ago. See J.C. Merrill and R.J. Wassermann, "Growth in National Expenditures: Additional Analyses," Health Affairs (Winter 1985): 91–98.



Public Does Not Perceive A Slowdown In Health Care CostGrowth

Over the past few years, would you say health insurance premiums have been going up faster than usual, going up slower than usual, or going up about the same amount?

