

# The Cost of Opioid Use Disorder in Medicare: *Over \$33B in a Single Year*



## Key Findings



Approximately **145,000** Medicare patients were first diagnosed with opioid use disorder (OUD) in 2022.



Each of these patients incurred an additional **\$29,669** in health care costs.



Newly diagnosed OUD patients costed Medicare **\$4.3 billion** in 2022 alone.



Translating these results to the 1.1 million Medicare beneficiaries with OUD suggests that OUD cost Medicare over **\$33 billion** in 2022.

## Additional Insights



The U.S. spent **\$1.5 trillion** combating the opioid addiction crisis in one year.



Medicare's share of overall opioid prescribing has increased by **75%** since 2011.



The projected 10-year impact of OUD on Medicare is **\$62.56 billion** for incident cases, and **\$480 billion** when including prevalent cases.

This analysis was targeted and focused solely on the impact of newly diagnosed, fee-for-service (FFS) Medicare beneficiaries. The staggering \$33 billion annual price tag for this narrow population is a drop in the bucket compared to the true cost of OUD on our federal health system overall.

**VOICES**  
FOR NON-OPIOID  
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[www.nonopioidchoices.org](http://www.nonopioidchoices.org)

The Moran Company, a Health Management Associates Company, "Opioid Use Disorder in the Medicare Fee-for-Service Program Economic Analysis". June 2024. <https://www.healthmanagement.com/insights/briefs-reports/economic-analysis-of-opioid-use-disorder-in-the-medicare-fee-for-service-program/>.