

# Facts About:

## Mail-Order Prescription Drugs

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- ▶ In 2002, a total of 3.14 billion prescriptions were written in the U.S., of which 174 million or 5.5% were filled by mail-order.
- ▶ 88% of surveyed mail-order prescription users were either very satisfied (70%) or somewhat satisfied (18%) with their mail-order pharmacy.
- ▶ Many health plans use financial incentives to encourage members to buy mail-order drugs in bulk. For example, \$10 for a 30-day retail script versus \$20 for a 90-day mail-order script.
- ▶ Mail-order programs adopted by the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan have produced cost savings of 27% on brand name drugs and 53% on generics.

- ▶ Mail-order programs fill over 13% of all prescriptions covered by Pharmacy Benefit Managers. By consolidating mail-order fulfillment, PBMs can be efficient in cost reduction.
- ▶ 33% of Internet pharmacies that advertise as being Canadian-based are actually from other countries.
- ▶ Annual cost increases for mail-order prescription drugs are lower than those for retail prescription drugs.

**Mail-Order: 18.6%**      **Retail: 19.3%**

A Project of the **Heinz Family Philanthropies**: Teresa Heinz, Chairman; Jeffrey Lewis, President (jlewis@heinzoffice.org) and **Medco Health Solutions**.