

Facts About:

Prescription Drugs and Seniors

- ▶ 10 million seniors (65 and older) have no prescription drug coverage.
- ▶ The number of seniors is increasing—from 13% of the population today to 18% in 2030.

2000: 34 million 2030: 70 million

- ▶ Seniors make up 13% of the population, but consume 34% of all prescription drugs, and pay 43% of the nation's bill for prescriptions.
- ▶ Total prescription drug spending by seniors has doubled since 1992, and will double again in this decade.

2000: \$42.9 billion 2010: \$113.6 billion

- ▶ Prescription drug costs are increasing approximately 18% per year.

- ▶ Per capita spending by seniors for prescription drugs rose from \$559 in 1992 to \$1,205 in 2000, and is projected to rise to \$2,810 by 2010.
- ▶ Senior citizens fill, on average, seven times as many prescriptions as adults aged 18 through 34:

18-34: 3 scripts 65-79: 20 scripts 80 and over: 22 scripts

- ▶ Currently, 29% of large employers provide prescription drug coverage for pre-Medicare-eligible retirees, down from 46% in 1993.
- ▶ Presently, 23% of large employers provide prescription drug coverage for Medicare-eligible retirees, down from 40% in 1993.
- ▶ At this time, 40% (\$860) of total prescription drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries is out-of-pocket spending. Prescription drug costs are increasing approximately 18% per year for this population.

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