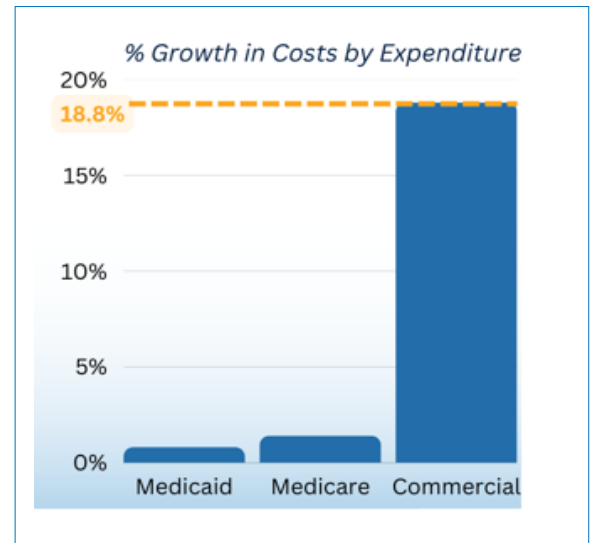


AT A GLANCE: HEALTHCARE SPENDING IN CONNECTICUT

Connecticut's first annual Healthcare Cost Growth Benchmark report published in March 2023 shows healthcare spending is growing at a faster rate than the benchmark target established by the State to ensure affordable healthcare is accessible to all residents.

KEY FINDINGS

- Healthcare spending in the state increased by 6% between 2020 and 2021, surpassing the State's benchmark target of 3.4%.
- Connecticut spent \$34 billion on healthcare and insurance costs in 2021, up from \$31.9 billion in 2019 and \$30.9 billion in 2020.
- Cost growth in 2021 was driven by an 18.8% increase in commercial health insurance spending while increases in Medicare and Medicaid were more modest. Commercial growth was larger in Connecticut than other states with benchmarks including Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Oregon.
- The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to the year over year increases in 2021 as healthcare spending decreased in 2020 and then rebounded in 2021 as in-person care approached or exceeded pre-pandemic levels.
- Connecticut spent \$1 billion on primary care in 2021, up from \$880 million in 2020. Statewide primary care spending was 5.1% of total spending in 2021, which achieved the 5% primary care spend target. Medicaid exceeded the 5% target but the commercial and Medicare Advantage markets did not.



WHAT IS THE HEALTHCARE COST GROWTH BENCHMARK?

Working together with healthcare representatives and consumer advocates, the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy set a goal for how much healthcare spending can reasonably increase year over year to remain affordable to the residents of Connecticut. The benchmark initiative was established by an [executive order](#) Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont signed in 2020, which was later codified into state law in [Public Act 22-118](#).

To view the full *Cost Growth Benchmark and Primary Care Spend Target Initiatives – 2020 and 2021 Performance* report visit www.ct.gov/OHS.