

V. UTILIZATION

Information about the use of health care services.

Current and trend data measuring health care use including: (1) persons served; (2) units of service, e.g., discharges, days of care; and (3) dimension of the services rendered, e.g. length of stay, charges per day. Utilization data are distributed for program coverage categories and type of service.

HIGHLIGHTS

- o The number of aged Medicare enrollees who received a covered service increased from 528 per 1,000 in 1975 to 918 per 1,000 enrollees in 2001.*
- o The number of disabled Medicare enrollees receiving services per 1,000 enrollees increased from 450 to 843 during the same period.*
- o The total number of all outpatient visits in the United States and the adjusted expense per patient day has increased steadily since 1983.*
- o The Medicare average length of stay for all short-stay and excluded units has been dropping for the past several years.*
- o The Medicare persons served rate per 1,000 enrollees for skilled nursing facilities has grown five-fold from 1982 to 2001. The rate of persons served by home health agencies grew dramatically (over 2 1/2 times) from 1982 through 1997 and has since declined.*