# Article information:

Gender differences in the utilization of health care services - PubMed
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10718692/>

# Article summary:

1. Women use more health care services than men.

2. Women have higher medical charges for all categories of charges except hospitalizations.

3. The appropriateness of these differences was not determined, but the findings have implications for health care.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article "Gender differences in the utilization of health care services" by Bertakis et al. investigates the gender differences in healthcare service utilization and associated charges. The study used important independent variables such as patient sociodemographics and health status to investigate these differences.

The study found that women had significantly lower self-reported health status, lower mean education and income than men, but had a significantly higher mean number of visits to their primary care clinic and diagnostic services than men. Mean charges for primary care, specialty care, emergency treatment, diagnostic services, and annual total charges were all significantly higher for women than men; however, there were no differences for mean hospitalizations or hospital charges.

The article does not provide any evidence of bias or one-sided reporting. However, it is important to note that the study was conducted at a university medical center with a limited sample size of new adult patients (N = 509) who were randomly assigned to primary care physicians. Therefore, the findings may not be generalizable to other populations or settings.

The article also does not explore potential reasons for the gender differences in healthcare service utilization and associated charges. For example, women may have more complex health needs or face more barriers to accessing healthcare services than men. Additionally, the study did not investigate whether the higher medical charges for women were appropriate or necessary.

Overall, while the article provides valuable insights into gender differences in healthcare service utilization and associated charges, further research is needed to fully understand the underlying factors contributing to these differences and their implications for healthcare policy and practice.

# Topics for further research:

* Factors contributing to gender differences in healthcare utilization
* Barriers to healthcare access for women
* Gender bias in healthcare treatment and diagnosis
* Intersectionality and healthcare disparities for women of color
* The impact of insurance coverage on gender differences in healthcare utilization
* Strategies for reducing gender disparities in healthcare access and outcomes

# Report location:

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