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Study: U.S. obesity-attributable medical expenditures \$75 billion in 2003

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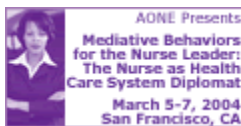
A study released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates U.S. obesity-attributable medical expenditures reached \$75 billion in 2003, with taxpayers financing about half of those costs through Medicare and Medicaid. Total state-level expenditure estimates in 2003 dollars range from \$87 million in Wyoming to \$7.7 billion in California, while the estimated percentage of annual medical expenditures attributable to obesity range from 4% in Arizona to 6.7% in Alaska. "This report is alarming given that obesity has been shown to promote many chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, several types of cancer, and gallbladder disease," said CDC Director Julie Gerberding, M.D. "The long-term effects of obesity on our nation's health and on our economy should not be underestimated." According to CDC's 1999-2000 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, an estimated 64% of U.S. adults are either overweight or obese. For more, see the announcement at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/archives.htm>.

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