

## Health Care Spending Continues Upward Spiral

According to statistics from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, overall U.S. health care spending increased to \$1.88 trillion in 2004 – a 7.9 percent increase from 2003, and an increase of more than 2,500 percent since 1970.



Overall U.S. Health Expenditures, Selected Years, 1970-2004

SOURCE: Smith C, Cowan C, Heffler S, et al. National health spending in 2004: recent slowdown led by prescription drug spending. *Health Affairs* Jan/Feb 2006;25(1):186-196.