

# MO Medicaid Foster Care Drugs FY10-FY14

Medicaid (MO HealthNet) Cost of Drugs given to Missouri Foster Care Children by combinations of Age, Gender, Drug Class and Fiscal Year

[Raw Data Provided by Missouri Department of Social Services]

Missouri Foster Care serves individuals age 0 to 21; not all states provide care to age 21. In FY2014 Missouri extended Medicaid benefits up to age 26 for individuals who have aged out of foster care; this data includes those adults.

## Some General Observations from the Data (see the Graphs below)

1. Top costs are for ADHD drugs and Antipsychotics for all ages.
2. ADHD drug costs appear to be increasing year over year.
3. Babies less than a year old are more commonly given Barbiturates, one presumes as a remedy for insomnia. Barbiturates are highly dangerous because of the small difference between a normal dose and an overdose.
4. Total foster care drug costs have averaged roughly \$16 Million per year, with a total for the five years 2010-2014 over \$81 Million.

## Notes on Missouri Foster Care

The high rates of psychotropic medication use in the Medicaid population, risks associated with these drugs, and research documenting inappropriate prescribing, have raised concerns, especially for children involved in the child welfare system.

Studies suggest that appropriate prescribing practices, that is, adhering to FDA-approved use and accepted clinical guidelines, may not always be followed for certain Medicaid populations such as the high-risk populations of children in foster care. In actual fact, multiple studies and reports have found that children in foster care are vulnerable to inappropriate or excessive medication use. Children in foster care are often prescribed more than one psychotropic medication at the same time. A review in Missouri once found some children in foster care prescribed five or more psychotropic drugs.

Drug Classes given to children in Missouri foster care (see Appendix):

ADHD  
Antianxiety  
AntidepressantAntipsychotic\_Combo  
Antidepressants\_MAOIs  
Antidepressants\_SSRIAndSimilar  
Antidepressants\_Tricyclics  
Antipsychotics\_FirstGeneration  
Antipsychotics\_SecondGeneration  
Barbiturates  
Bipolar Disorder  
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders

For 2008, Medicaid Pharmacy Benefit statistics for Missouri from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services show 122,274 children 5 years of age or younger; 121,095 ages 6 to 14; and 54,645 ages 15 to 20. This includes children in foster care. The top drug group for all these prescriptions in terms of cost was antipsychotics.

Missouri consistently ranks nationally in the bottom one-third of overall health status as compared to other states. Nationally, about 14 percent of Medicaid beneficiaries used a psychotropic medication during calendar year 2011. In 2011, Medicaid spent about \$8 billion in fee for service for psychotropic medications—30 percent of the program's total fee-for-service drug spending.

In 2014 there were 7,259 Children entering or reentering Missouri state custody. There were 24,388 children, in or out of foster care, who were receiving public mental health services (meaning they were likely on one or more psychotropic drugs.)

In Fiscal Year 2015, Department of Social Services MO Healthnet (Medicaid) spent \$1,254,900,000 for pharmacy services for 883,672 people, approximately 60% of whom were children. There were an average of 13,033 children monthly in Foster Care (19,429 individuals for the year.) The total 2015 state population of children under 18 was 1,399,075.

Over the last four years, Missouri has been experiencing an increase in the Foster Care population, which in 2015 was the highest in the previous 12 years; indicating at the very least unmanageable caseloads.

### Recommendations / Model Legislation

§ As an example, there are currently close to 63,000 children and youth in California's Child Welfare System. Refer to this model legislation from California:

*California Assembly Bill AB-1067*

[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB1067](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1067)

Approved by the Governor 09/30/16.

Requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to convene a working group to develop standardized information about the rights of all minors and nonminors in foster care, and expands requirements regarding the distribution of information regarding these rights.

§ As another example, see this draft copy of suggested California legislation to expand the rights of children in foster care regarding the use of psychotropic drugs:

<http://www.cchrstl.org/documents/Draft%20CA%20Foster%20Care%20Bill.pdf>

*A bill to amend the existing Foster Child Bill of Rights (WIC 16001.9) to strengthen the rights of foster children to participate in any decision to require mental health treatment and psychotropic medication. The state of California finds that Foster Children are subjected to excessive diagnosis and treatment by psychotropic medications, and hereby amends the Foster Child Bill of Rights to include the following additional protections for children under the care of Child Protective Services.*

*Section 16001.9 (a) 5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:*

*(5) (a) To be free of the administration of medication or chemical substances unless authorized by physician,*

*(b) To be informed of the risks and benefits of psychotropic medication in an age appropriate manner,*

*(c) To tell their doctor that they disagree with any recommendation to prescribe psychotropic medication,*

*(d) To go to the judge with an advocate of their choice and state that they object to any recommendation to prescribe psychotropic medication,*

*(e) To refuse the administration of psychotropic or other medication unless immediately necessary for the preservation of life or the prevention of serious bodily harm,*

*(f) To refuse the off-label prescription of psychotropic drugs and at-risk polypharmacy,*

*(g) To have prescribing doctors disclose any financial ties they have to pharmaceutical companies in writing in an age appropriate manner.*

§ Go here to download more information about drugging foster care children:

[http://www.cchrstl.org/documents/facts\\_about\\_foster\\_care\\_children.pdf](http://www.cchrstl.org/documents/facts_about_foster_care_children.pdf)

## Graphs of Drug Costs for Missouri Foster Children FY10-FY14

Figure 1 Total \$ Cost per year Ages 0-25 for all drugs

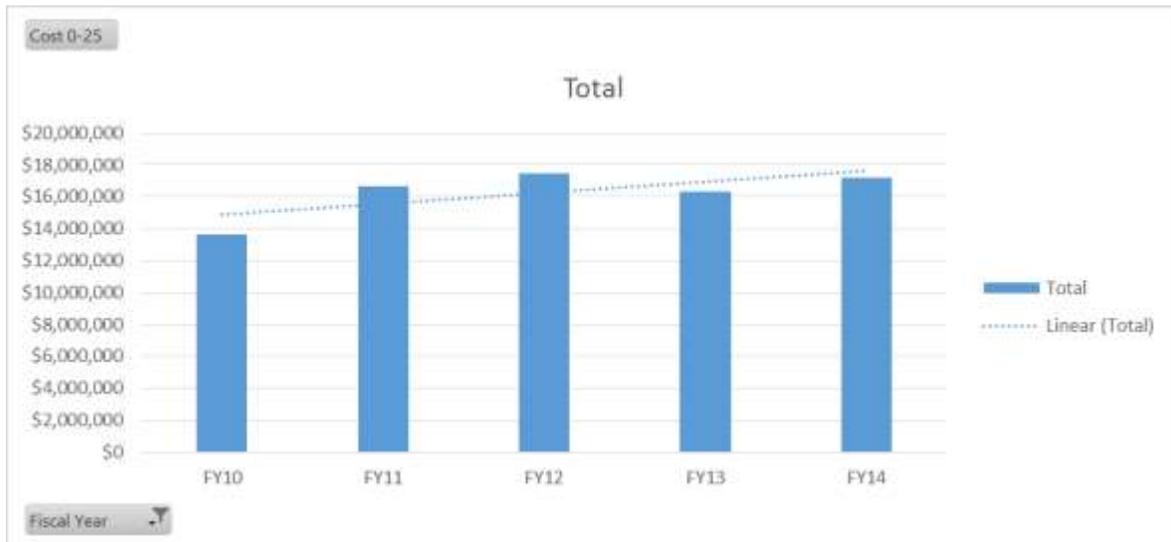


Figure 2 Total \$ Cost for Ages 0-12 per Fiscal Year and Drug Class

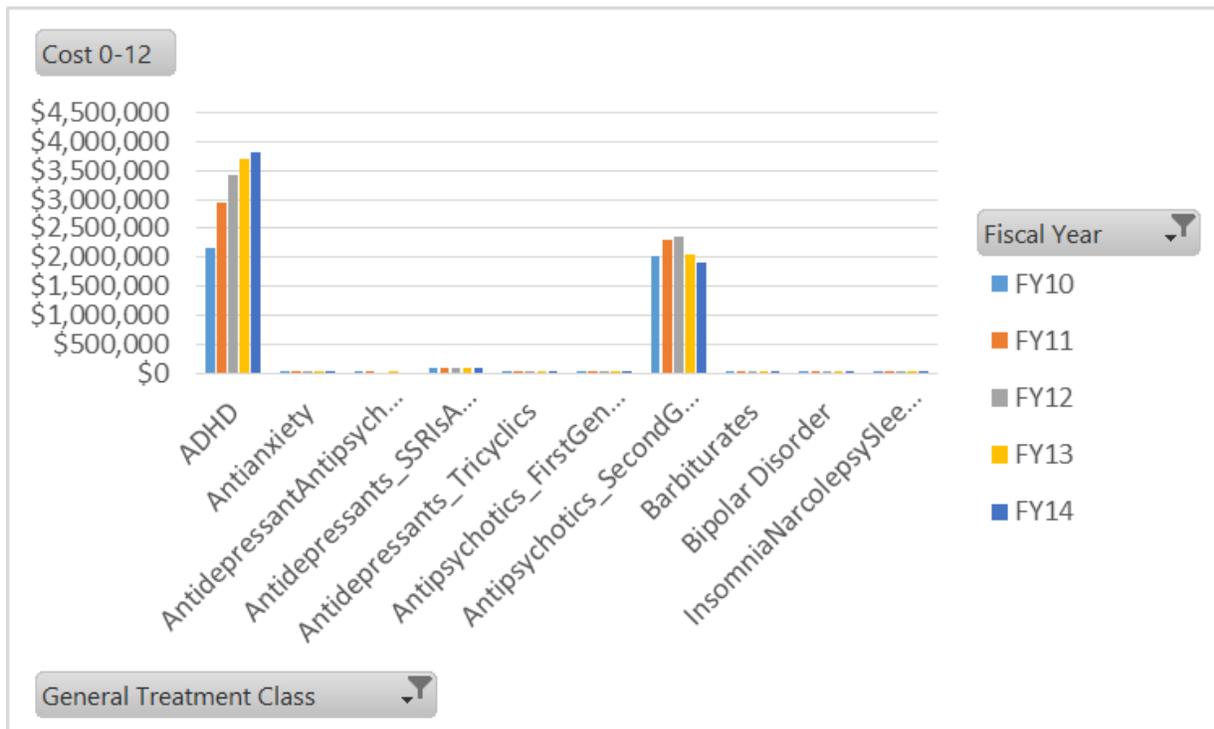


Figure 3 Total \$ Cost for Female Children Ages 0-12 per Fiscal Year and Drug Class

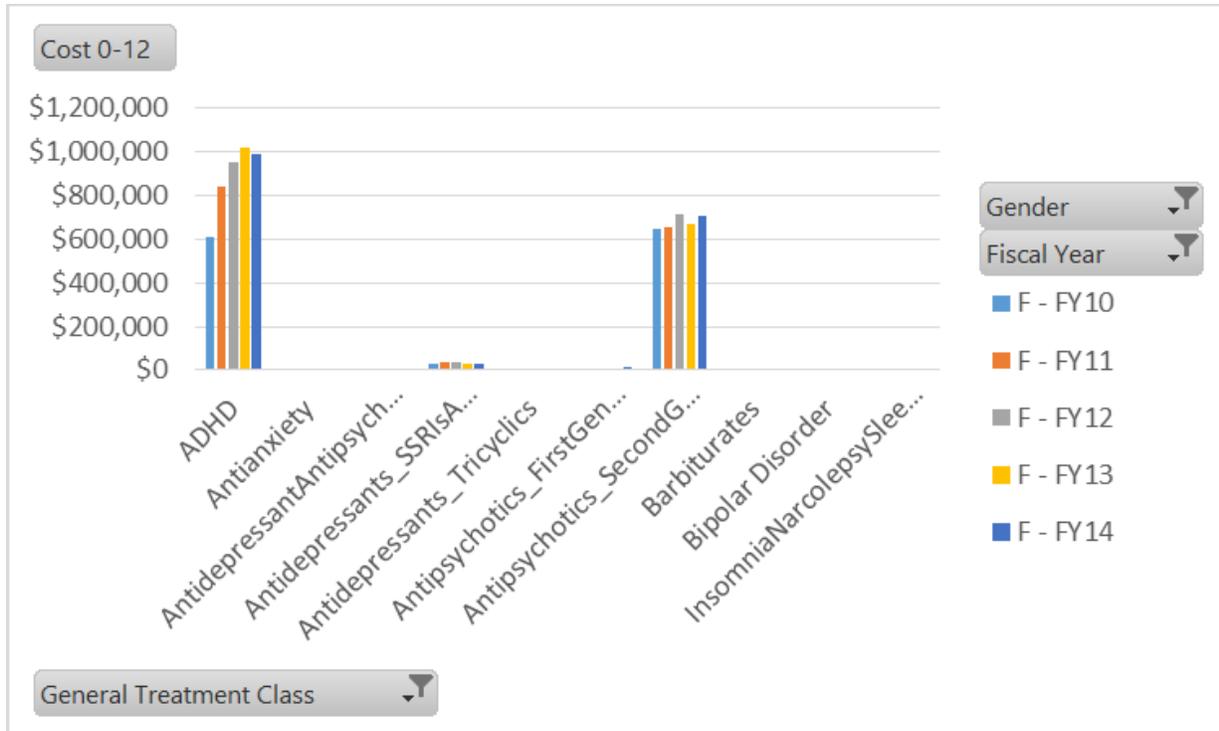


Figure 4 Total \$ Cost for Male Children Ages 0-12 per Fiscal Year and Drug Class

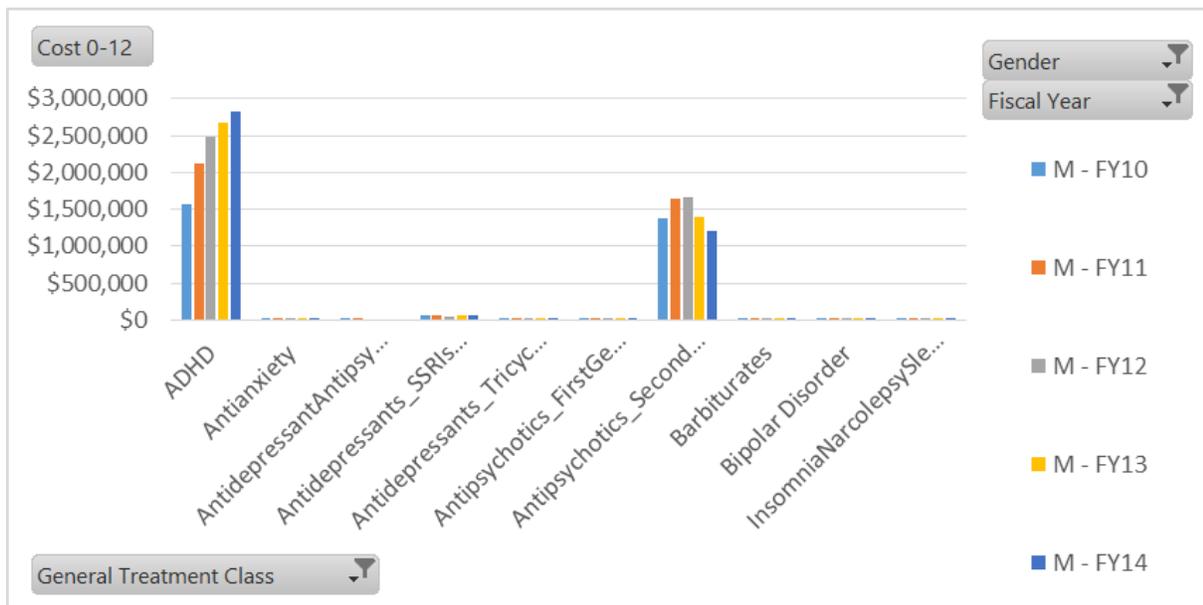
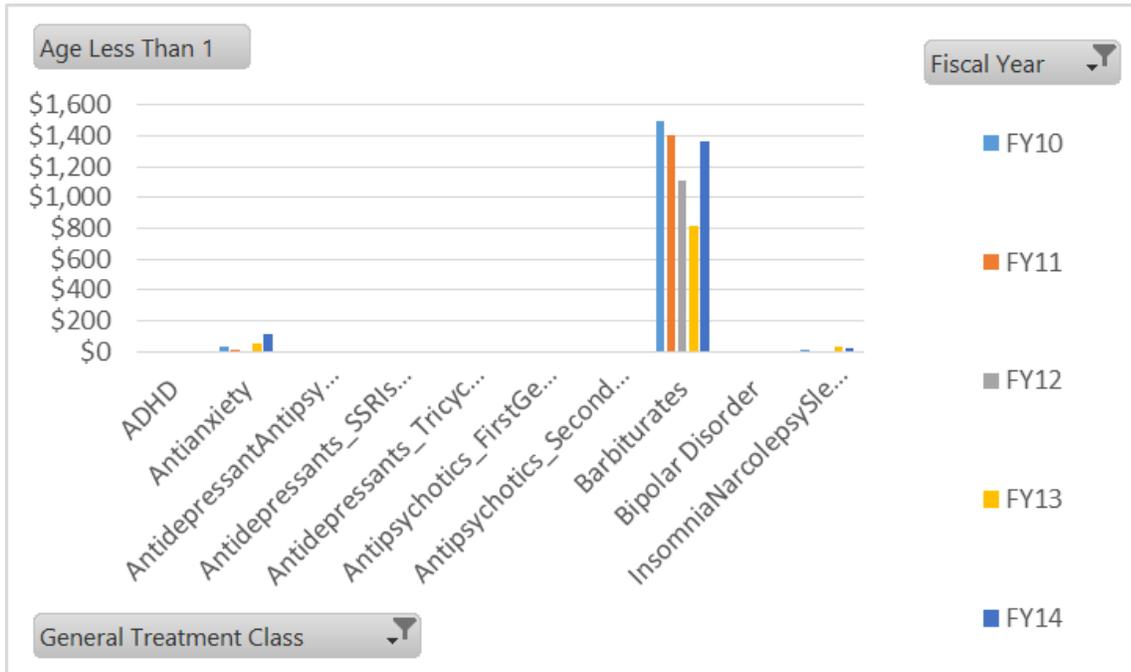


Figure 5 Total \$ Cost for Age <1 per Fiscal Year and Drug Class



Note: Barbiturates are drugs that act as central nervous system depressants, and can therefore produce a wide spectrum of effects, from mild sedation to total anesthesia.

Figure 6 Total \$ Cost for Ages 13-25 per Fiscal Year and Drug Class

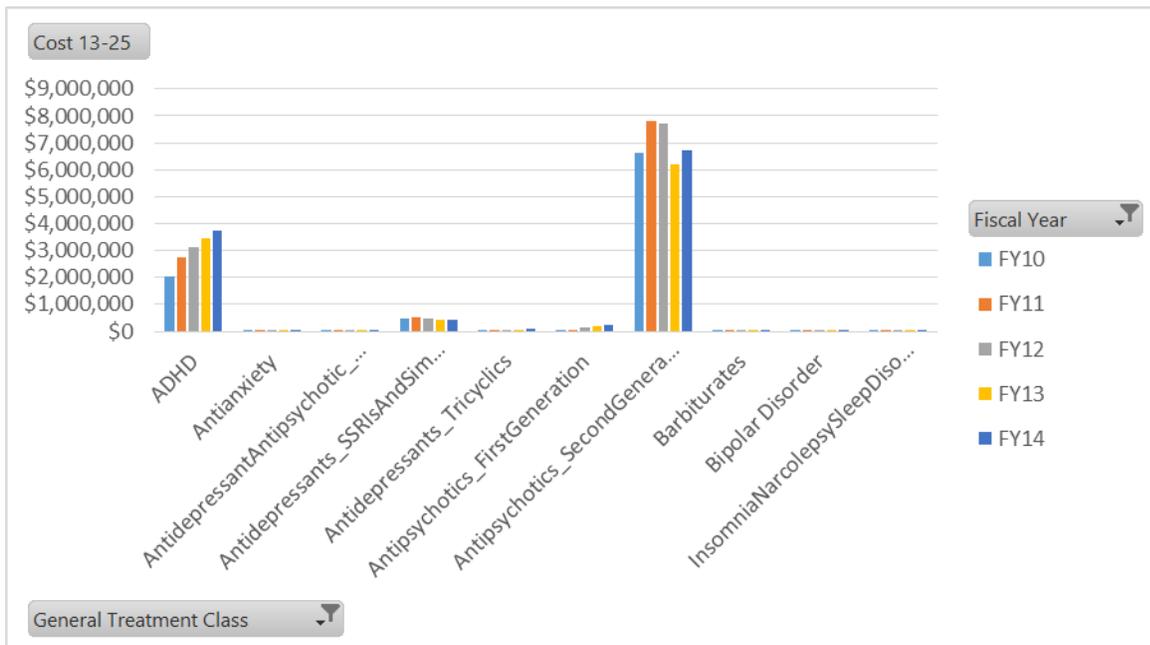


Figure 7 Total \$ Cost for All Ages up to 21 per Fiscal Year and Drug Class

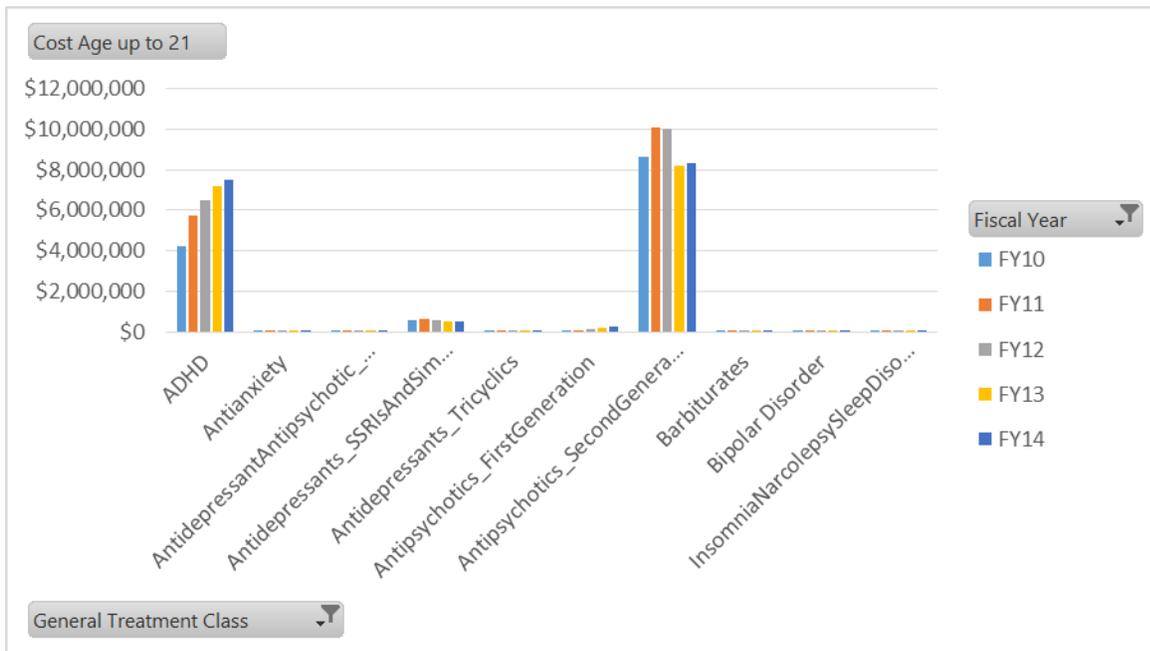
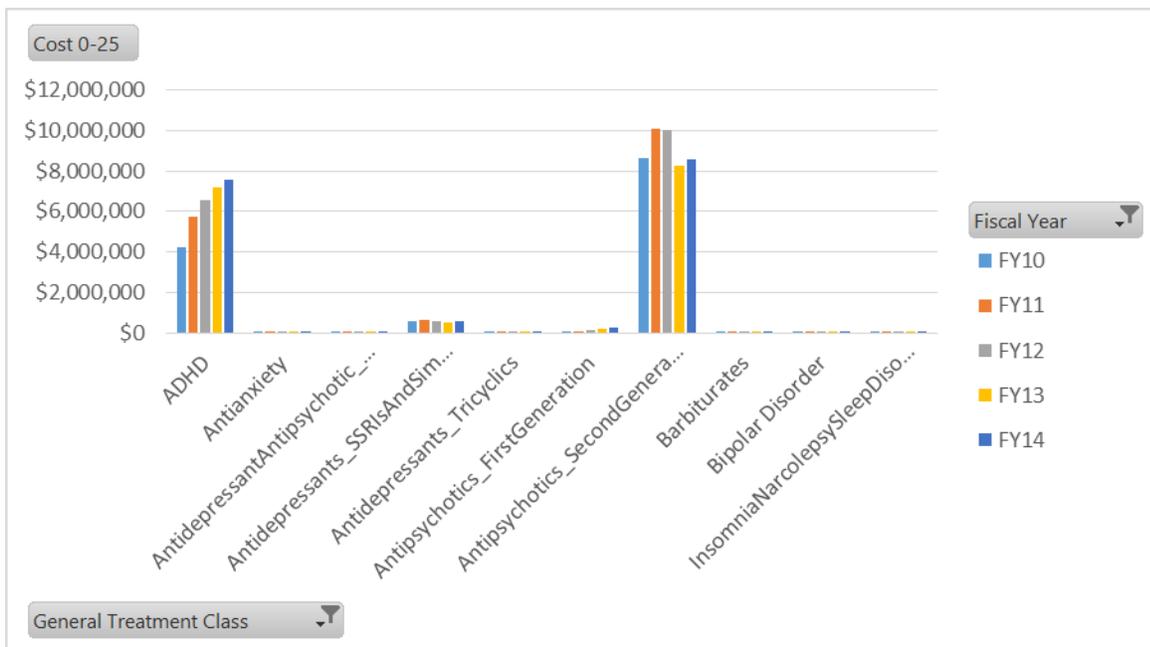


Figure 8 Total \$ Cost for All Ages 0-25 per Fiscal Year and Drug Class



## APPENDIX A

These are the psychoactive drug categories and generic names prescribed to foster children as provided by the statistics kept by the Missouri Department of Social Services. For simplicity, different forms of the same drug (i.e. pill, liquid, injection) have been combined so that the drug is listed only once. There are often a number of Brand Names for a given generic; only one is provided as an example.

General Treatment Class	Generic Drug Name	Example Brand Name
ADHD	ARMODAFINIL	Nuvigil
ADHD	ATOMOXETINE HCL	Strattera
ADHD	CLONIDINE HCL	Catapres
ADHD	DEXMETHYLPHENIDATE HCL	Focalin
ADHD	DEXTROAMPHETAMINE SULFATE	Dexedrine
ADHD	DEXTROAMPHETAMINE SULF-SACCHARATE/AMPHET	Adderall
ADHD	GUANFACINE HCl	Estulic
ADHD	LISDEXAMFETAMINE DIMESYLATE	Tyvens
ADHD	METHAMPHETAMINE HCL	Desoxyn
ADHD	METHYLPHENIDATE	Ritalin
Antianxiety	ALPRAZOLAM	Xanax
Antianxiety	BUSPIRONE HCL	Buspar
Antianxiety	CHLORDIAZEPOXIDE HCL	Librium
Antianxiety	CLORAZEPATE DIPOTASSIUM	Tranxene
Antianxiety	DIAZEPAM	Valium
Antianxiety	LORAZEPAM	Ativan
Antianxiety	OXAZEPAM	Serax
AntidepressantAntipsychotic_Combo	OLANZAPINE/FLUOXETINE HCL	Zyprexa
AntidepressantAntipsychotic_Combo	PERPHENAZINE/AMITRIPTYLINE HCL	Trilafon
Antidepressants_MAOIs	TRANLYCPROMINE SULFATE	Parnate
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	BUPROPION HCL	Wellbutrin
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	CITALOPRAM HYDROBROMIDE	Celexa
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	DESVENLAFAXINE SUCCINATE	Pristiq
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	DULOXETINE HCL	Cymbalta
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE	Lexapro
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	FLUOXETINE HCL	Prozac
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	FLUVOXAMINE MALEATE	Luvox
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	MIRTAZAPINE	Remeron
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	NEFAZODONE HCL	Dutonin
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	PAROXETINE	Paxil
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	SERTRALINE HCL	Zoloft
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	TRAZODONE HCL	Desyrel
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	VENLAFAXINE HCL	Effexor
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	VILAZODONE HYDROCHLORIDE	Viibryd
Antidepressants_Tricyclics	AMITRIPTYLINE HCL	Elavil
Antidepressants_Tricyclics	AMOXAPINE	Asendin
Antidepressants_Tricyclics	CLOMIPRAMINE HCL	Anafranil
Antidepressants_Tricyclics	DESIPRAMINE HCL	Norpramin
Antidepressants_Tricyclics	DOXEPIN HCL	Sinequan

<b>General Treatment Class</b>	<b>Generic Drug Name</b>	<b>Example Brand Name</b>
Antidepressants_Tricyclics	IMIPRAMINE	Tofranil
Antidepressants_Tricyclics	NORTRIPTYLINE HCL	Aventyl
Antidepressants_Tricyclics	PROTRIPTYLINE HCL	Vivactil
Antipsychotics_FirstGeneration	CHLORPROMAZINE HCL	Thorazine
Antipsychotics_FirstGeneration	FLUPHENAZINE	Prolixin
Antipsychotics_FirstGeneration	HALOPERIDOL	Haldol
Antipsychotics_FirstGeneration	PERPHENAZINE	Trilafon
Antipsychotics_FirstGeneration	PIMOZIDE	Orap
Antipsychotics_FirstGeneration	THIORIDAZINE HCL	Mellaril
Antipsychotics_FirstGeneration	THIOTHIXENE	Navane
Antipsychotics_FirstGeneration	TRIFLUOPERAZINE HCL	Stelazine
Antipsychotics_SecondGeneration	ARIPIRAZOLE	Abilify
Antipsychotics_SecondGeneration	ASENAPINE MALEATE	Saphris
Antipsychotics_SecondGeneration	CLOZAPINE	Clozaril
Antipsychotics_SecondGeneration	ILOPERIDONE	Fanapt
Antipsychotics_SecondGeneration	LOXAPINE SUCCINATE	Loxapine
Antipsychotics_SecondGeneration	LURASIDONE HCL	Latuda
Antipsychotics_SecondGeneration	OLANZAPINE	Zyprexa
Antipsychotics_SecondGeneration	PALIPERIDONE	Invega
Antipsychotics_SecondGeneration	QUETIAPINE FUMARATE	Seroquel
Antipsychotics_SecondGeneration	RISPERIDONE	Risperdal
Antipsychotics_SecondGeneration	ZIPRASIDONE	Geodon
Barbiturates	PHENOBARBITAL	Luminal
Bipolar Disorder	CARBAMAZEPINE	Tegretol
Bipolar Disorder	LITHIUM	Lithium
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders	ARMODAFINIL	Nuvigil
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders	CHLORAL HYDRATE	Somnos
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders	DOXYLAMINE SUCCINATE	Unisom
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders	ESTAZOLAM	ProSom
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders	ESZOPICLONE	Lunesta
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders	LORAZEPAM	Ativan
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders	MIDAZOLAM HCL	Versed
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders	RAMELTEON	Rozerem
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders	TEMAZEPAM	Restoril
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders	TRIAZOLAM	Halcion
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders	ZALEPLON	Sonata
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders	ZOLPIDEM TARTRATE	Ambien

## APPENDIX B

### *Common side effects (adverse events) for psychoactive drug classes*

For a more complete list of common side effects of psychoactive drugs, see:

<http://www.CCHRSTL.org/sideeffects.shtml>

<b>Drug Class</b>	<b>Some Common Side Effects</b>
ADHD (also known as Psychostimulants)	Aggressive or hostile behavior, Agitation, Blood pressure and heart problems, Depression, Hallucinations, Mood changes, Psychosis, Seizures, Suicidal thoughts, Tourette's Syndrome, Violent behavior
Antianxiety (also known as Minor Tranquilizers, Benzodiazepines, or Sedative Hypnotics)	Aggressive or hostile behavior, Agitation, Akathisia, Confusion, Hallucinations, Seizures, Psychosis, Rage, Depression, Suicide attempts
AntidepressantAntipsychotic_Combo	All the side effects of both antidepressants and antipsychotics
Antidepressants_MAOIs	Anxiousness, Confusion, Delirium, Delusions, Depression, Extreme restlessness, Hallucinations, Hyperactivity, Lethargy, Manic reactions, Nightmares, Panic feelings, Seizures, Stroke
Antidepressants_SSRIAndSimilar	Agitation, Akathisia, Anxiety, Confusion, Delusions, Depression, Dizziness, Hallucinations, Heart attacks, Hostility, Mania, Mood swings, Nightmares, Panic attacks, Psychotic episodes, Seizures, Suicidal thoughts or behavior, Violent behavior
Antidepressants_Tricyclics	Anxiousness, Confusion, Delirium, Delusions, Depression, Extreme restlessness, Hallucinations, Hyperactivity, Lethargy, Manic reactions, Nightmares, Panic feelings, Seizures, Stroke
Antipsychotics_FirstGeneration (also known as Major Tranquilizers or Neuroleptics)	Agitation, Akathisia, Anxiety, Confusion, Depression, Dizziness, Heart failure, Hostility, Mood changes, Nightmares, Restlessness, Seizures, Suicidal thoughts, Violence
Antipsychotics_SecondGeneration (also known as Major Tranquilizers or Neuroleptics)	Agitation, Akathisia, Anxiety, Confusion, Depression, Dizziness, Heart failure, Hostility, Mood changes, Nightmares, Restlessness, Seizures, Suicidal thoughts, Violence
Barbiturates	Addiction, Depression, Disorientation, Hallucinations, Kidney disease, Liver disease
Bipolar Disorder	Birth defects, Confusion, Depression, Dizziness, Hallucinations, Insomnia, Restlessness, Seizures, Thyroid problems, Tremors
InsomniaNarcolepsySleepDisorders	Similar to antianxiety drugs

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