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# Preface

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The General Accounting Office (GAO), an arm of the Congress, was established to independently audit government agencies. GAO's Health, Education, and Human Services (HEHS) Division reviews the government's health, education, employment, social security, disability, welfare, and veterans programs administered in the Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, Education, Veterans Affairs, and some other agencies.

This booklet lists the GAO products issued on these programs. It is divided into two major sections:

- **Most Recent GAO Products:** This section identifies reports and testimonies issued during the past 2 months and provides summaries for selected key products.
- **Comprehensive 2-Year Listings:** This section lists all products published in the last 2 years, organized chronologically by subject as shown in the table of contents. When appropriate, products may be included in more than one subject area.

You may obtain single copies of the products free of charge, by telephoning your request to (202) 512-6000 or faxing it to (301) 258-4066. Additional ordering details, as well as instructions for getting on GAO's mailing list, appear at the end of this booklet.

Janet L. Shikles  
Assistant Comptroller General

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## Abbreviations

AFDC	Aid to Families with Dependent Children
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
BLS	Bureau of Labor Statistics
CARE	Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDR	continuing disability review
CHAMPUS	Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services
	DEA
DEA	Drug Enforcement Agency
DC	District of Columbia
DI	Disability Insurance
DIC	Dependency and Indemnity Compensation
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EEOC	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
EMA	eligible metropolitan area
ERISA	Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974
ESEA	Elementary and Secondary Education Act
FDA	Food and Drug Administration

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**Contents**

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GAO	General Accounting Office
HCFA	Health Care Financing Administration
HEAF	Higher Education Assistance Foundation, Department of Education
HealthPASS	Philadelphia Accessible Services System
HEHS	Health, Education, and Human Services Division, GAO
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HMO	health maintenance organization
HRD	Human Resources Division, GAO
IFA	individualized functional assessment
IHS	Indian Health Service
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
JOBS	Job Opportunities and Basic Skills program
JTPA	Job Training Partnership Act
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NAGB	National Assessment Governing Board, Department of Education
NPR	National Performance Review
OBRA	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990
PATH	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
PBGC	Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation
PPI	producer price index for prescription drugs
SBA	Small Business Administration
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
T&A	time and attendance
TB	tuberculosis
TRICARE	DOD nationwide managed health care program
UMWA	United Mine Workers of America Combined Benefit Fund
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs
WIC	Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children

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# Most Recent GAO Products (March - April 1995)

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## Health

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### Selected Summaries

#### Prescription Drug Prices: Official Index Overstates Producer Price Inflation (Report, 4/28/95, GAO/HEHS-95-90).

Recent research indicates that the producer price index for prescription drugs (PPI-Drugs) published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the official wholesale level index of U.S. drug prices, has overstated drug price increases substantially since at least 1984. This overstatement has three causes. First, before 1994, BLS used a market basket (sample) of drugs that underrepresented new and recently introduced drugs in the market. This sampling problem alone led PPI-Drugs to overstate drug inflation between 1984 and 1991 by an estimated 23 to 36 percent. Second, the index does not account for the cost savings incurred when consumers switch to lower priced substitutes, such as generics. Third, PPI-Drugs does not adequately separate pure price changes, which constitute inflation, from price changes that reflect different product characteristics, such as fewer side effects. Some progress has been made in addressing the causes of the overstatement. Regardless of the outcome of the PPI-Drugs debate, users should be aware of potential misuses of all price indexes.

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# Health (Comprehensive 2-Year Listing)

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## Access and Infrastructure

Ryan White Care Act: Access to Services by Minorities, Women, and Substance Abusers (Report, 1/13/95, GAO/HEHS-95-49).

Health Care: Federal and State Antitrust Actions Concerning the Health Care Industry (Report, 8/5/94, GAO/HEHS-94-220).

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# Major Contributors

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Jessie L. Battle  
David W. Bieritz  
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Stephen F. Palincsar

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# Order Form

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**Order Form**

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# Mailing List Request Form

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- \_\_\_ State/Local Government (09)
- \_\_\_ Trade/Interest Group (10)
- \_\_\_ Law firm (11)
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## Areas of Interest

To receive future reports and testimonies, check your area(s) of interest.

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- \_\_\_ Access and Infrastructure (78)
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- \_\_\_ Financing (64)
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- \_\_\_ Malpractice (79)
- \_\_\_ Managed Care (80)
- \_\_\_ Medicare and Medicaid (11)
- \_\_\_ Prescription Drugs (81)

### EMPLOYMENT

- \_\_\_ Equal Employment Opportunities (00)
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U.S. General Accounting Office

Fax Number (202) 512-5806

(7/95)

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