

# 4 Health system costs by age and sex

Total health system costs for females in 1993–94 were 34% higher than those for males: \$18.0 billion compared with \$13.4 billion. Health system costs are higher for females than males for all chapters of ICD-9 except for perinatal conditions, injury and congenital anomalies (Table 4 and Figure 3). Except for complications of pregnancy, the female to male cost ratio is highest for genitourinary problems, followed by mental disorders and blood disorders.

Figure 4 shows the health system costs for the major sectors by broad age group. Detailed information on total costs by age, sex and detailed health sector are provided in Appendix Table C.4. The accompanying table provides estimates of health services utilisation by sector, age and sex (Appendix Table C.5).

Total health system costs for males rise with age to 65–74 years and then decline, reflecting the decreasing population numbers at older ages (Figure 5). Total health system costs for females peak in the 25–34 year age group, reflecting childbearing and health costs related to the genitourinary system. They then decline to age group 55–64 years and then rise at older ages. Figure 6 shows the total health system costs per head of population by age and sex. Apart from the reproductive peak for females at ages 25–34 years, per capita health system costs rise with age for both sexes through to the oldest ages.

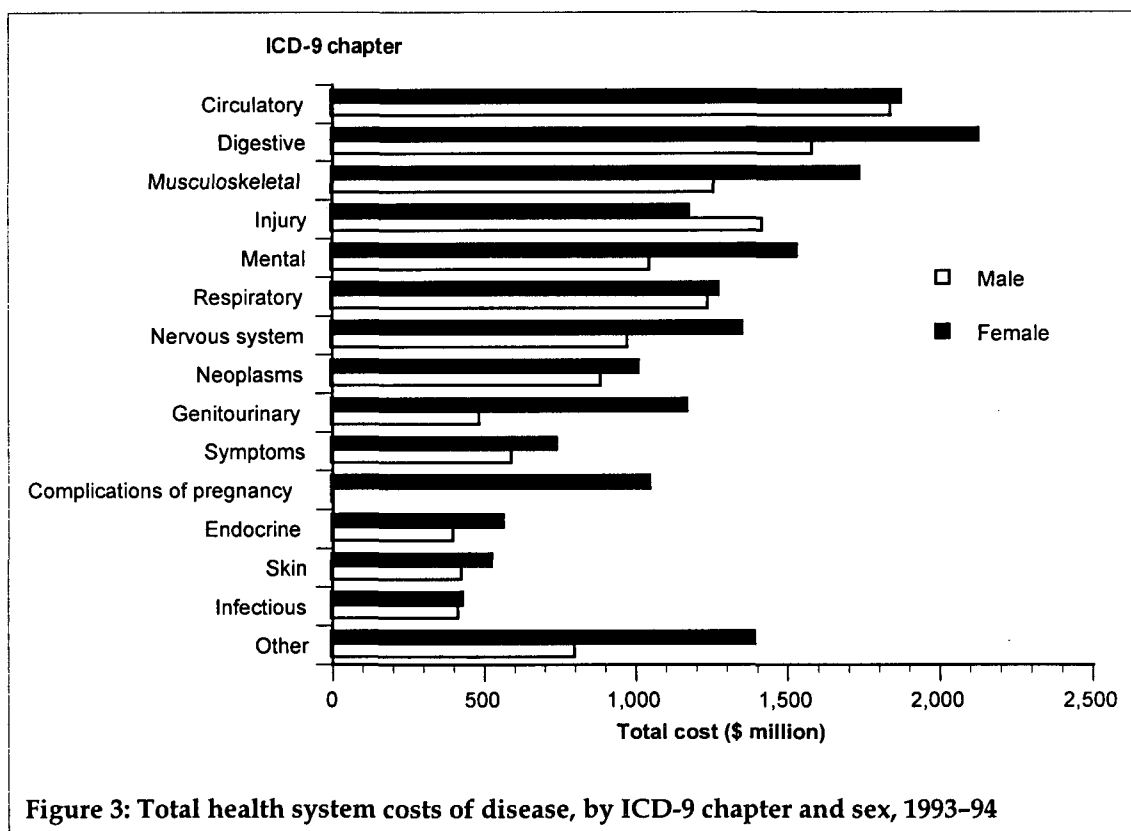
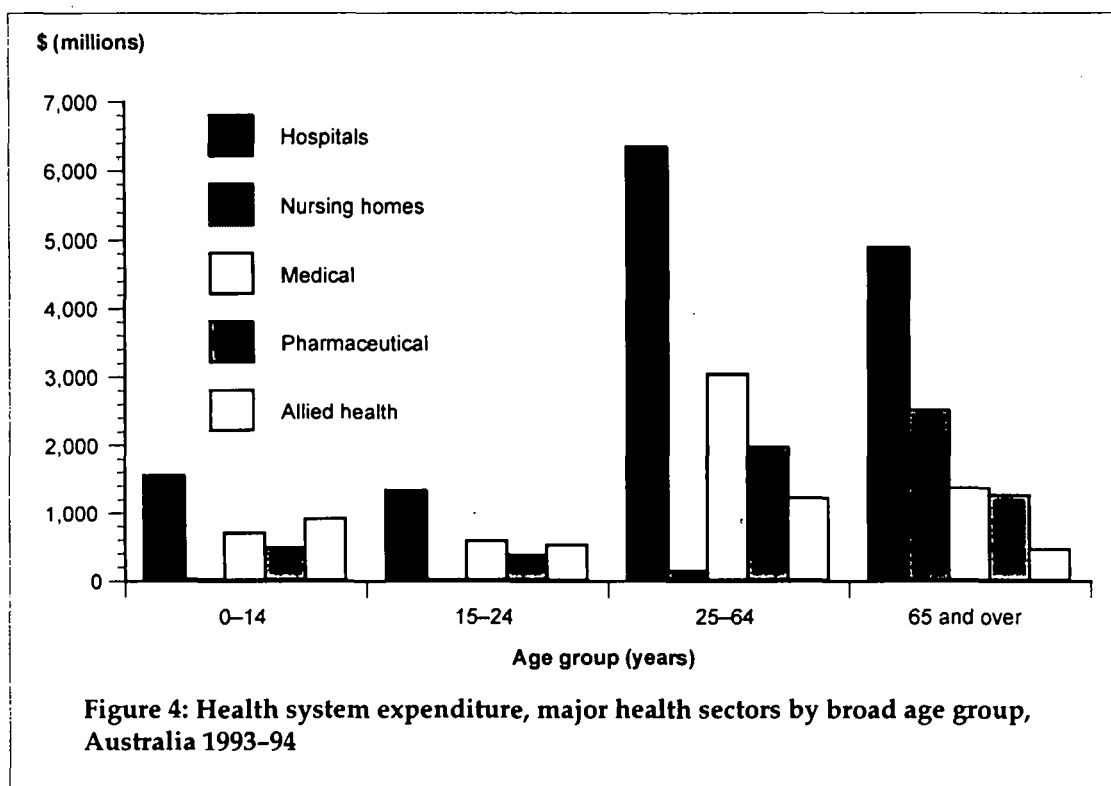


Figure 3: Total health system costs of disease, by ICD-9 chapter and sex, 1993–94

**Table 4: Total health system costs for males and females by ICD-9 chapter and female:male ratio, in descending order of ratio, 1993-94**

ICD-9 chapter	Male (\$ million)	Female (\$ million)	Total (\$ million)	Female:male ratio
Complications of pregnancy	0	1,051	1,051	—
Genitourinary	487	1,175	1,662	2.41
Other <sup>(a)</sup>	504	1,103	1,607	2.19
Mental	1,050	1,536	2,586	1.46
Blood	78	114	192	1.46
Endocrine	400	566	966	1.42
Nervous system	978	1,357	2,334	1.39
Musculoskeletal	1,262	1,740	3,002	1.38
Digestive	1,584	2,131	3,715	1.35
Symptoms	593	741	1,334	1.25
Skin	428	528	956	1.23
Neoplasms	890	1,015	1,904	1.14
Infectious	417	432	849	1.04
Respiratory	1,242	1,279	2,521	1.03
Circulatory	1,842	1,877	3,719	1.02
Perinatal	127	112	239	0.88
Injury	1,420	1,181	2,601	0.83
Congenital	92	67	159	0.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,395</b>	<b>18,002</b>	<b>31,397</b>	<b>1.34</b>

(a) Other contact with health services: fertility control, reproduction and development, cosmetic surgery, general health examination, and treatment for unspecified disease.



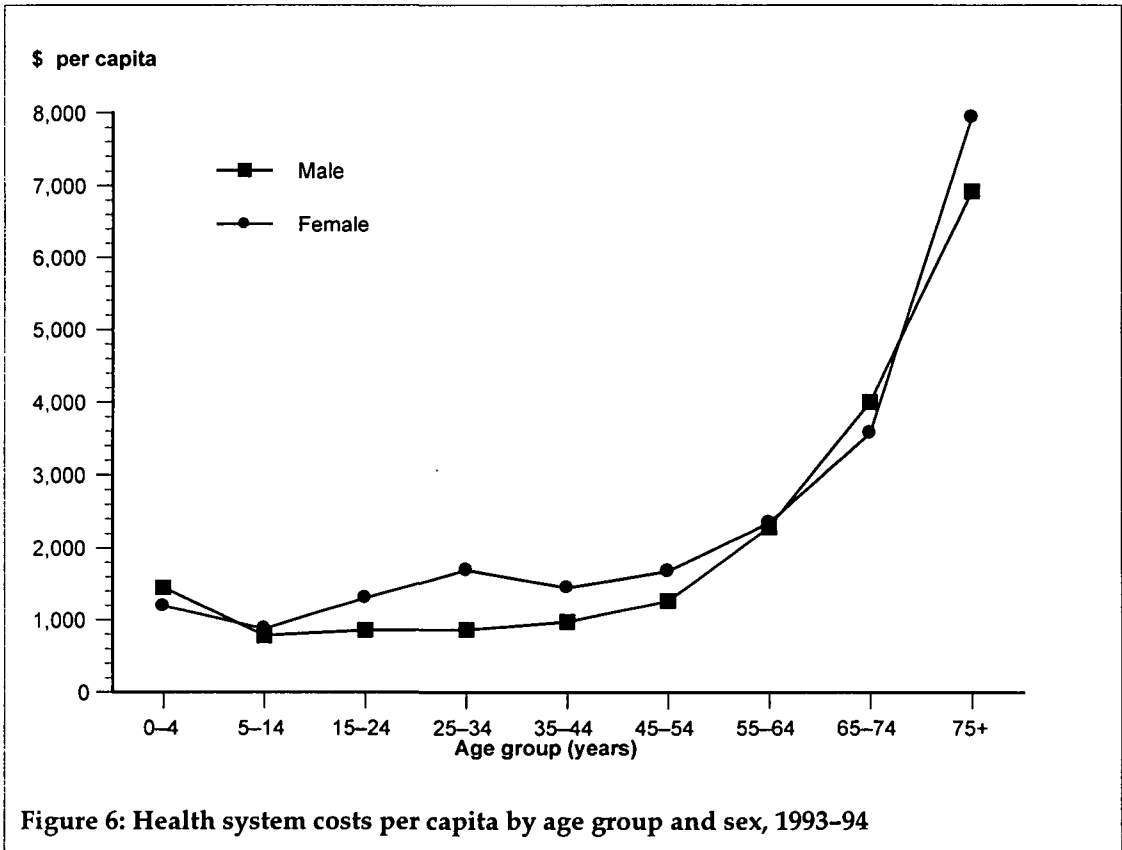
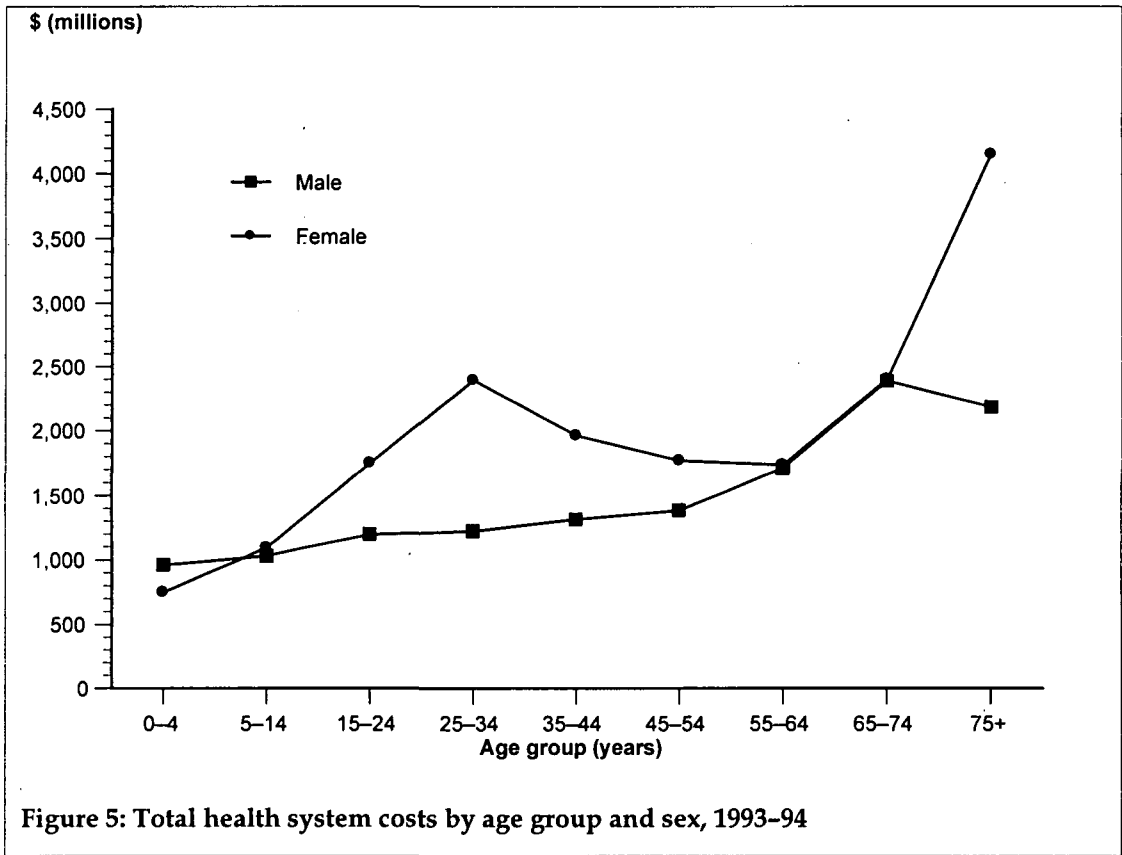
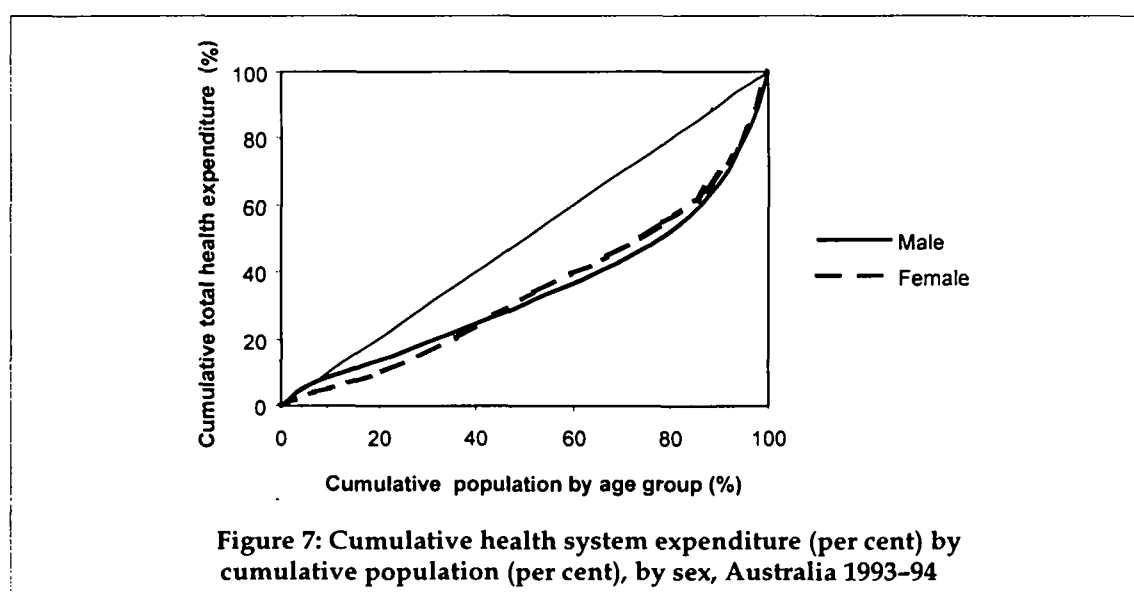


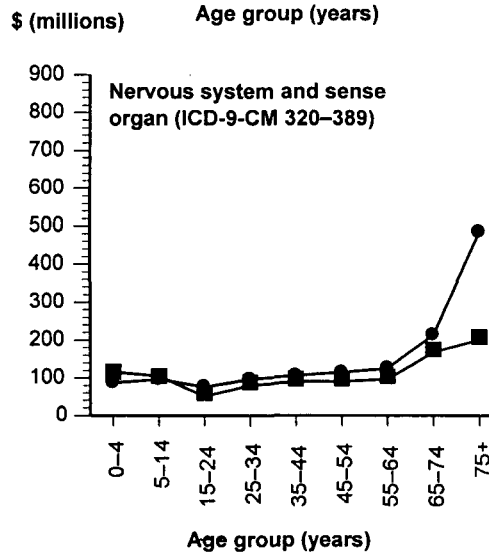
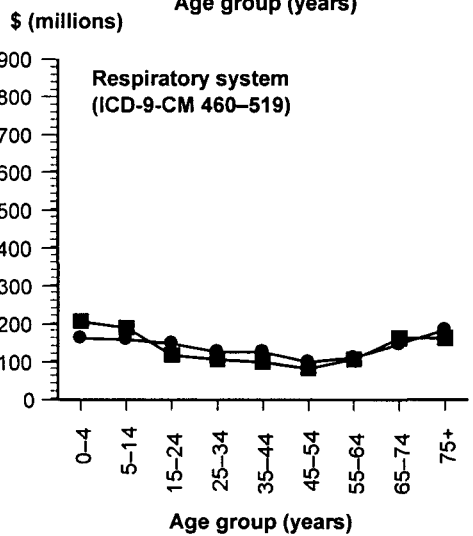
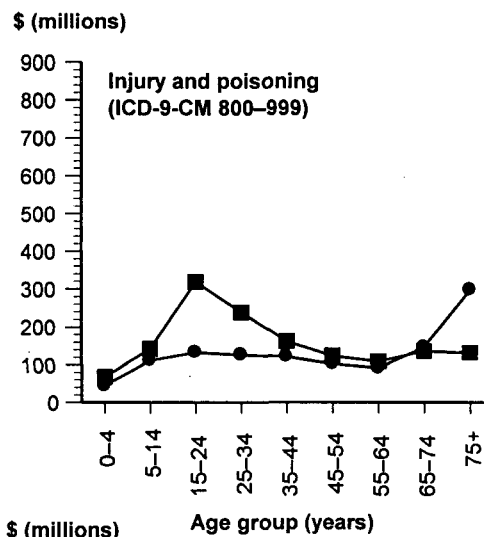
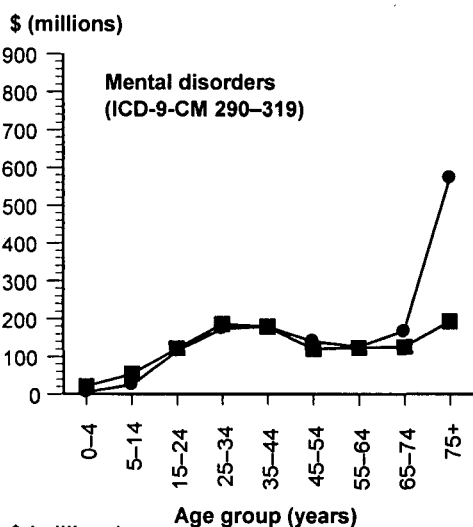
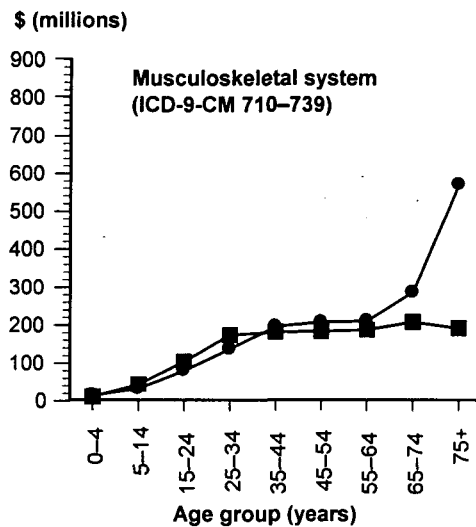
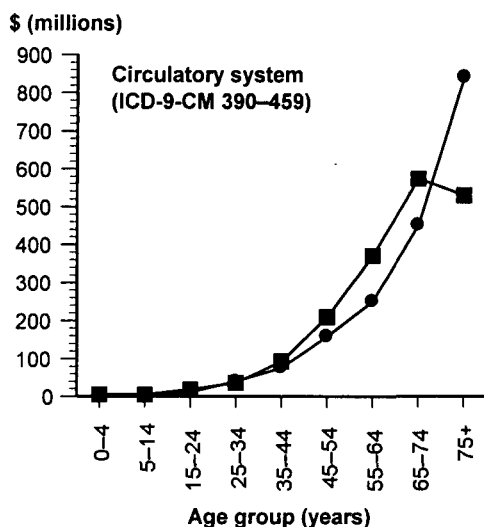
Table 5 shows the total health expenditure for cumulative age groups for males and females combined. The left hand columns show total health expenditure for persons aged from 0 to various ages, the right hand columns for persons aged from a given age upwards. Figure 7 presents these results for males and females separately in the form of Lorenz curves – cumulative total health expenditure (as per cent of total for all ages) is plotted against the cumulative per cent of the population as age increases. The deviations of the Lorenz curves from the diagonal line show the extent of age inequality in health expenditure for each sex.

Figure 8 shows the age-sex distributions of health system costs for selected disease groups defined by ICD-9 chapters. Cost distributions are shown separately for dental services and other diseases of the digestive system. Detailed information on total costs and health services utilisation by health sector, age, sex and ICD-9 chapter are provided in Appendix Tables C.6 to C.40. Figure 9 shows the age-sex distributions of health system costs per capita for selected disease groups defined by ICD-9 chapters. Cost distributions are again shown separately for dental services and other diseases of the digestive system.

**Table 5: Total health system expenditure (\$ million and per cent of total) for cumulative age groups, males and females combined, Australia 1993–94**

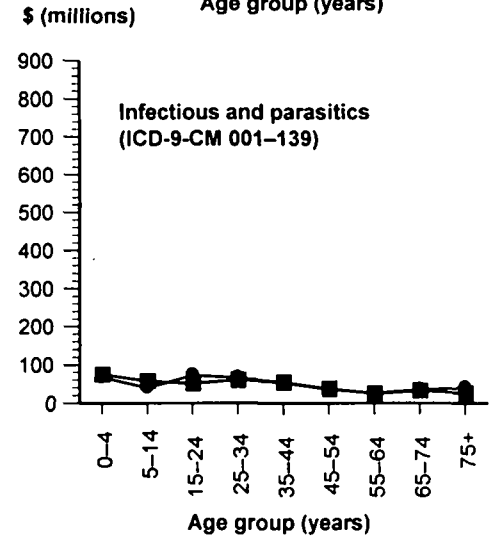
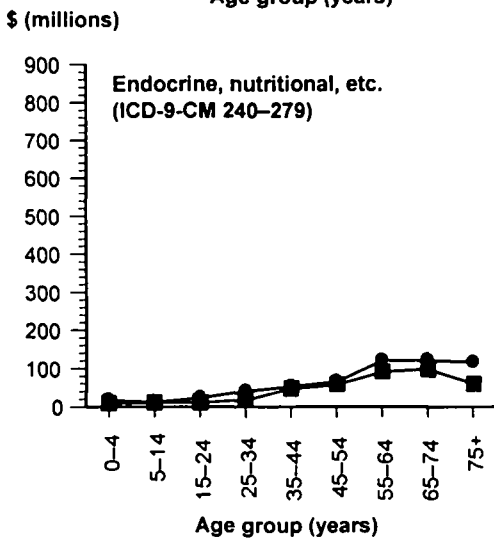
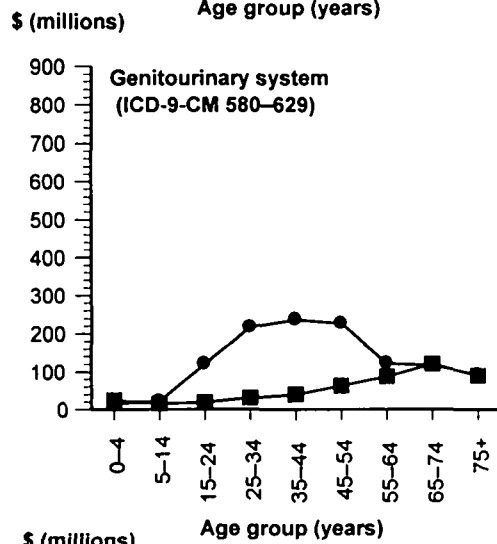
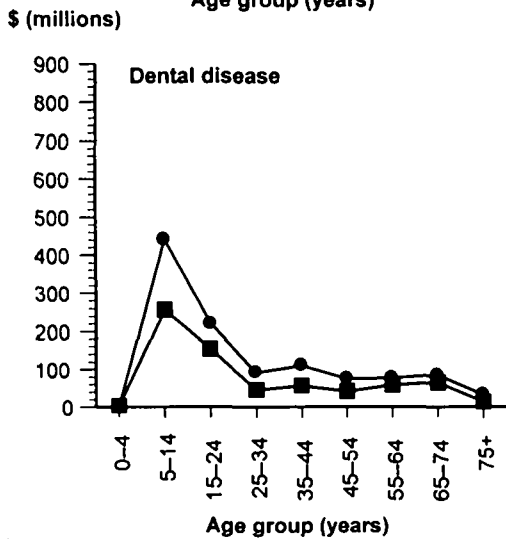
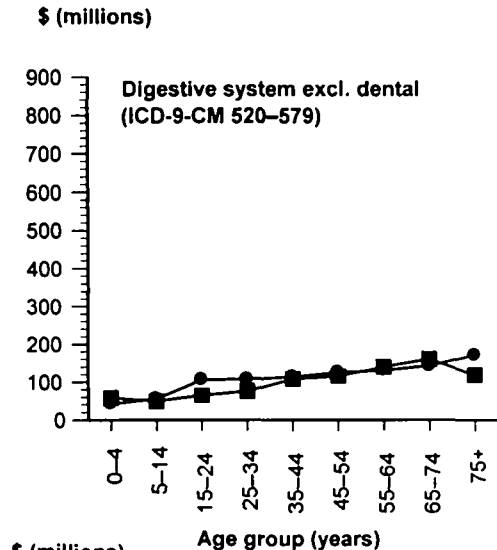
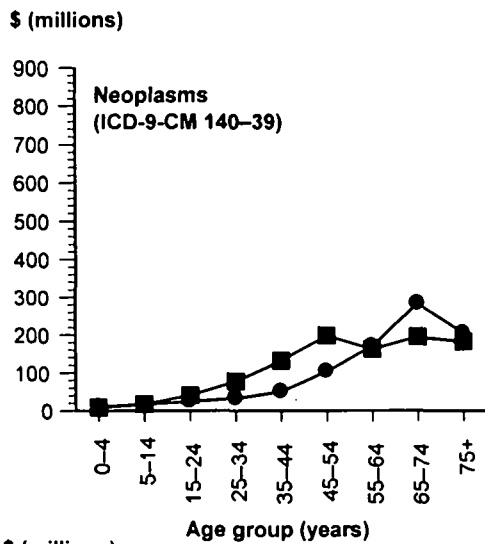
Expenditure			Cumulative expenditure			Cumulative expenditure		
Age range	(\$ million)	% of total	Age range	(\$ million)	% of total	Age range	(\$ million)	% of total
0–4	1,709	5.4	0–4	1,709	5.4	All ages	31,397	100.0
5–14	2,123	6.8	0–14	3,832	12.2	5+	29,688	94.6
15–24	2,947	9.4	0–24	6,779	21.6	15+	27,565	87.8
25–34	3,616	11.5	0–34	10,395	33.1	25+	24,618	78.4
35–44	3,275	10.4	0–44	13,670	43.5	35+	21,002	66.9
45–54	3,153	10.0	0–54	16,823	53.6	45+	17,727	56.5
55–64	3,448	11.0	0–64	20,272	64.6	55+	14,574	46.4
65–74	4,778	15.2	0–74	25,060	79.8	65+	11,125	35.4
75+	6,337	20.2	All ages	31,397	100.0	75+	6,337	20.2





■ Male      ● Female

Figure 8: Health system costs for selected disease groups by age and sex, Australia, 1993-94



■ Male      ● Female

Figure 8 (continued): Health system costs for selected disease groups by age and sex, Australia, 1993-94

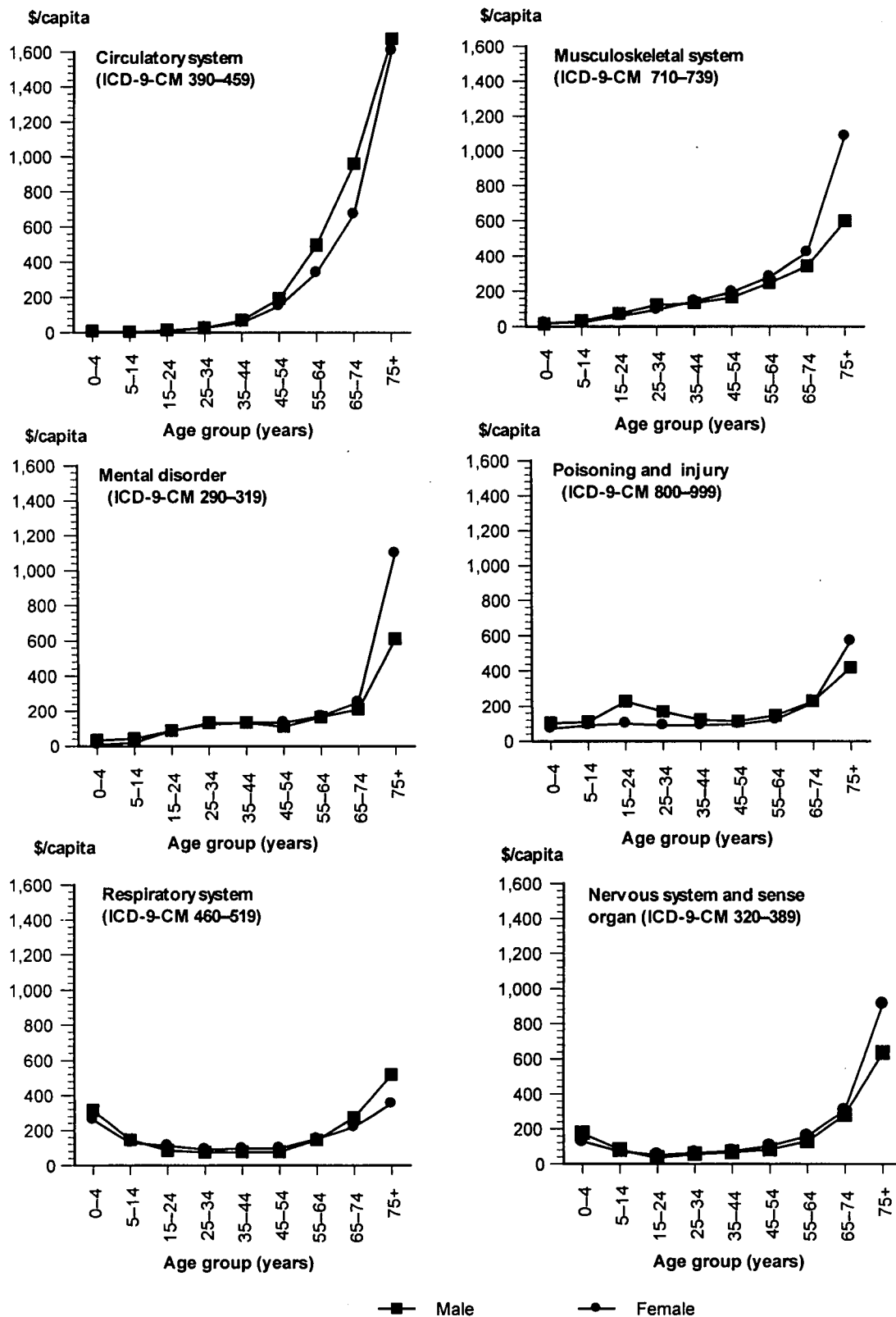


Figure 9: Health system costs per capita for selected disease groups by age and sex, Australia, 1993-94

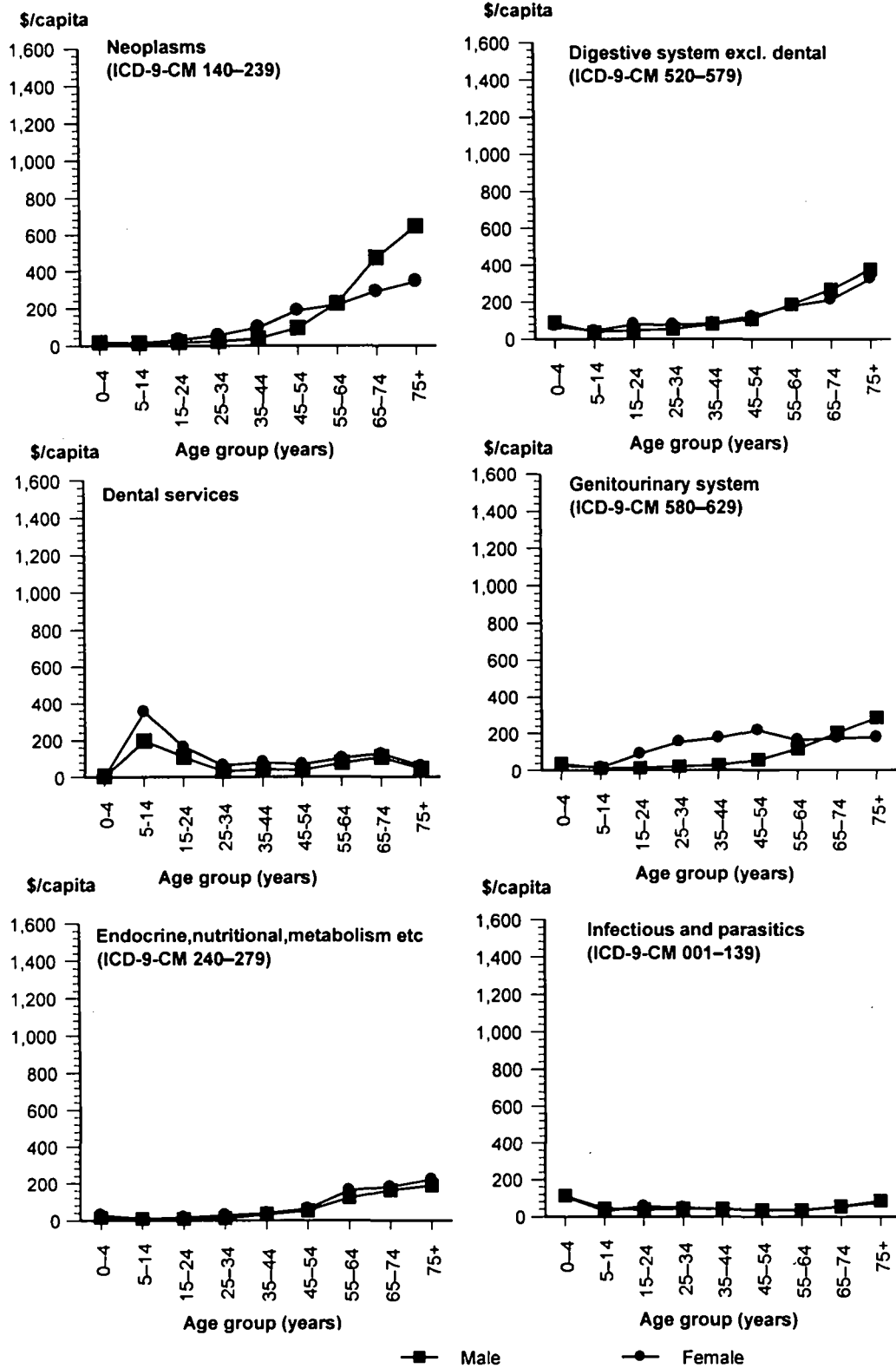


Figure 9 (continued): Health system costs per capita for selected disease groups by age and sex, Australia, 1993-94