

Quick facts about the health care crisis

- The United States is spending more on health care per capita than any other country, but still ranks 42nd in terms of life expectancy behind Japan, France, and Canada and barely ahead of Mexico. (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 46.6 million people have no health insurance, roughly the combined population of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. (US Census Bureau: Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the US: 2005)
- The United States is ranked 37th in the world in terms of the quality of our health care system – below Cyprus, Chile and Costa Rica. (WHO – World Health Report, 2000)
- 53 cents of every health care dollar is spent on hospital and physician services. (RAND Health)
- On average, premiums for employer-sponsored health insurance have been rising four times faster than workers' salaries since 2000. (Kaiser Family Foundation and the Health Research & Educational Trust)
- Nearly one in four non-elderly Americans (61.6 million) is in a family that will spend more than 10% of its pre-tax income on health care costs -17.8 million will spend more than 25%. (Families USA, December 2007)
- The United States ranks 26th among 30 industrialized nations in infant mortality. In fact our infant mortality rate is higher than both Cuba and Taiwan. (National Center for Health Care Statistics)
- Marketing pharmaceuticals accounts for 3% of our total U.S. health care spending. Nearly twice as much is spent on marketing pharmaceutical drugs (\$57.5 billion) as compared with research and development (\$31.5 billion). (Public Library of Science)