



Healthcare in America

BridgeND
Sept 27, 2021



Announcements

- Converge 2021 Wrap-Up and Pairings
- New Observer article out this Friday! (Patrick C)

THE

OBSERVER

Brief History of Healthcare in America

- 1949: Harry Truman proposes universal healthcare as part of his “Fair Deal”; It fails
- 1965: LBJ passes Medicare and Medicaid, providing health insurance for the elderly and poor respectively
- 1993: Clinton proposes universal healthcare program; It also fails
- 2010 Obama passes the Affordable Care Act which expands access to healthcare



We should resolve now that the health of this nation is a national concern; that financial barriers in the way of attaining health shall be removed; that the health of all it's citizens deserves the help of all the nation.

— *Harry S. Truman* —

AZ QUOTES



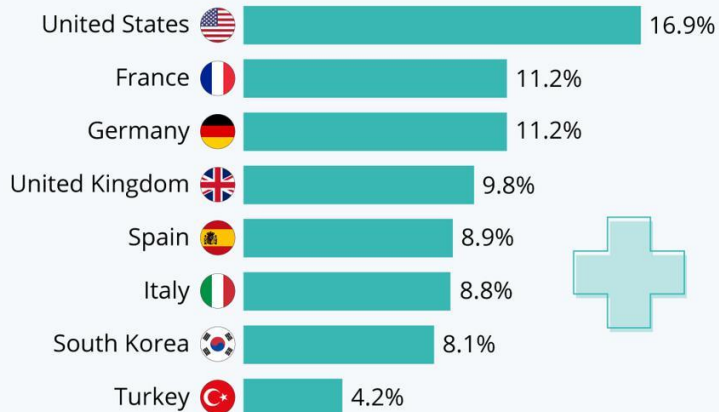
Key Provisions in Obamacare

- Extended healthcare to 20+ million uninsured Americans
- Insurance plans must offer coverage regardless of preexisting conditions
- Insurance plans must provide coverage for some preventative health services without any patient cross-sharing (e.g. immunizations, screening for autism, diabetes, cancer, etc.)
- Required employers to cover their workers (exception for small businesses)
- Citizens required to have insurance (individual mandate eliminated in 2017)
- Insurance plans that cover dependent children must do so until child is 26
- Gave states the ability to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income Americans

The Current Reality

How Much Do Countries Spend On Their Health Systems?

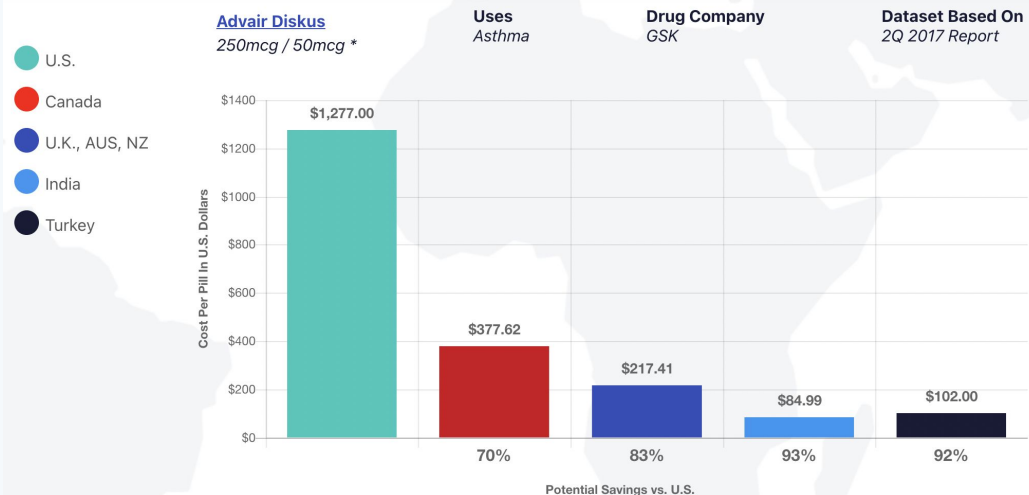
Health expenditure as a percentage of GDP in 2018



Source: OECD



Forbes **statista**



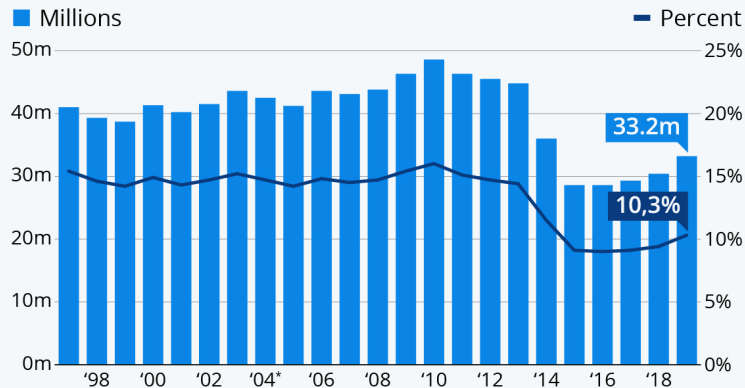
Sources | Prices were recorded between August and September 2017 and May and June 2017. U.S. prices shown are retail cash prices listed on GoodRX.com. All other prices are from verified online pharmacies and their price comparisons on PharmacyChecker.com. Canadian prices are in U.S. dollars and come from [PharmacyChecker.com 2Q](https://www.pharmacychecker.com/2Q) | [PharmacyChecker.com 3Q](https://www.pharmacychecker.com/3Q)



The Current Reality

Number of Uninsured on the Rebound

Number and percentage of persons without health insurance coverage in the U.S.



* In Q3 of 2004, 2 questions were added to the National Health Interview Survey insurance section to reduce potential errors

Source: DHHS, CDC, NCHS

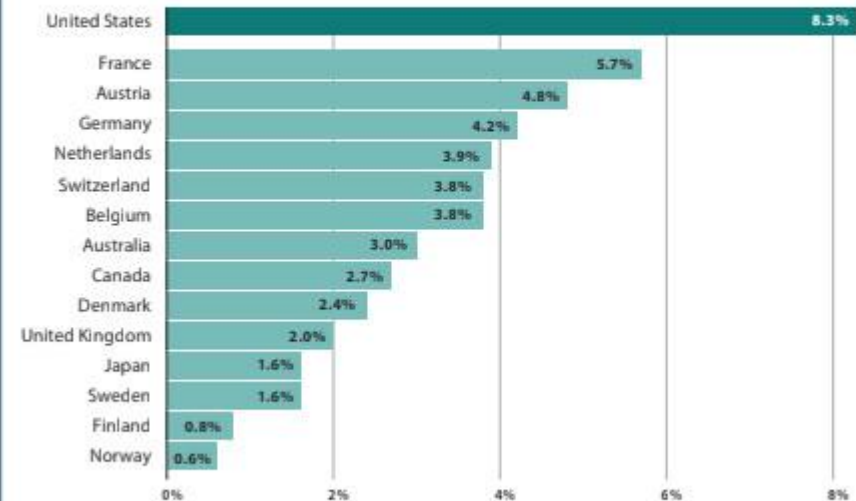


statista

FIGURE 1

Administrative costs comprise a larger share of health care spending in the United States than in other high-income countries

Administrative spending as a percentage of total health expenditures, 2016*



*Note: Data for Australia and Japan are for 2015; data for all other countries are for 2016.

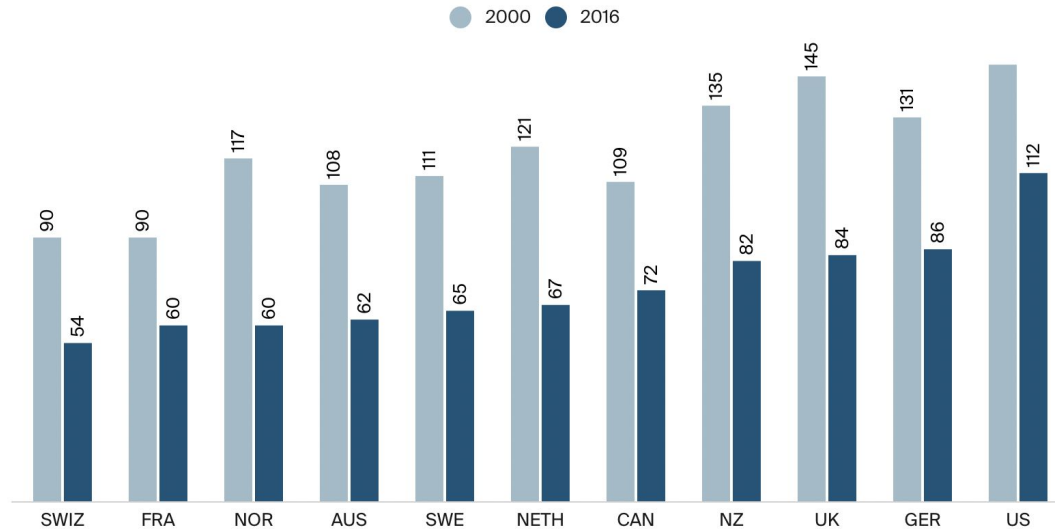
Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, "Health expenditure and financing," available at <https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=SHA> (last accessed January 2019).

The Current Reality

QUALITY AND CARE OUTCOMES

The U.S. Has the Highest Rate of Avoidable Deaths

Deaths per 100,000 population



Biden's Proposal

- Proposals mostly aimed to fortify the Affordable Care Act
- Create a public option
- Expanding ACA to lower-income Americans in non-Medicaid expansion states
- Lower Medicare age from 65 to 60 (20 million more Americans would be eligible)



Medicare for All (Sanders' Proposal)

- All residents of the US (not just citizens) are entitled to healthcare
- Residents may obtain health services from any provider
- Individuals are automatically enrolled into the program
- Illegal to sell private health insurance that covers the benefits offered by Medicare for All
- Medicare coverage expanded to include dental, hearing, vision, prescription drugs, etc.
- No cost-sharing, including deductibles, coinsurance, copayments, or similar charges (except up to \$200 for prescription drugs)
- Medicare negotiates drug prices and HHS secretary determines prices of treatments
- Paid for by an increase in taxes and the ending of tax breaks from employers providing healthcare



Trump's Proposal

- Attempted to repeal Obamacare, but was unsuccessful
- No comprehensive plan proposed, generally believed the private market could better supply healthcare
- Against individual mandate (repealed in 2017)
- Created short-term health insurance plans, which don't have to cover people with pre-existing conditions to give some level of coverage to people who can't afford ACA plans
- Signed executive order to protect individuals with preexisting conditions



Discussion Questions

- Is healthcare a right that should be provided to all as needed, or should it be treated like a commodity that should be subjected to the same marketplace influences as other commodities?
- What should the government's role be in providing healthcare to Americans? Should states primarily be responsible for providing healthcare, or should it be done at the national level?
- What role should the marketplace play?
- Should employers be responsible for providing healthcare? Should healthcare continue to be linked to employers, or should a different approach be taken?
- Is the Affordable Care Act doing a good job providing healthcare, or should the United States take a different approach? Should it be repealed? Should it be expanded on? Should the healthcare system be transformed into a single-payer system (like Medicare for All)?
- How should the United States go about lowering drug prices? To what extent should pharmaceutical companies be able to profit off of their life saving drugs? Should healthcare be looked as a business, meaning that profits should be allowed, or should there be limits to profit?
- What kinds of public policies could be designed to give individuals more incentives to remain healthy and reduce demand for costly health care services?