

DID YOU KNOW?

- In the U.S. in 2007 46 million were uninsured, including nearly 9 million children. Almost 70% of the uninsured are full-time workers or live in households with at least one full-time worker. ¹
- 14,000 people became uninsured in the U.S. every day in December 2008 and January 2009. ²
- An estimated 87 million people- one in every three Americans under the age of 65- were uninsured at some point in 2007 and 2008. ³
- Between 2000 and 2006 the percentage of employers offering employees healthcare coverage fell from 69% to under 60%. ⁴
- Approximately 45,000 people die in the U.S. each year due to lack of insurance. Approximately 300 people die per year in Minnesota due to lack of health insurance. Across the United States in 2006, twice as many people died from lack of health insurance as died from homicide. ⁵
- When uninsured people in the U.S. are admitted to a hospital they are 20% more likely to be admitted to an intensive care unit, and in the ICU are 20% more likely to die. ⁶
- It is estimated that uninsurance and underinsurance lead to lost workplace productivity and greater risk of illness and death at a cost of \$65-\$135 billion per year in the U.S. ^{7, 8}
- The U.S. spends \$2.2 TRILLION dollars a year on health care, 16.2% of Gross Domestic Product. (That is one out of every 6 dollars spent in the U.S. each year). In comparison Germany spends 10.9% of GDP, France 10.5%, Norway 9.7%, and other industrialized countries even less. By 2019 health care spending is estimated to be 1/5 of U.S. GDP. ⁹
- It is projected that health care spending will reach 20% of Gross Domestic Product by 2017. ¹⁰
- The U.S spends twice as much per capita on healthcare as most other industrialized nations but our outcomes are poorer. The U.S ranks 46th in life expectancy, behind Bosnia and Jordan (2008 data). US Ranks 42nd in infant mortality rate after the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Cuba. ^{11, 12, 13}
- Administrative costs account for 31% of all health care expenditures in the U.S., double the proportion of Canada (16.7 percent). Average overhead among private U.S. insurers was 11.7 percent, compared with 1.3 percent for Canada's single-payer system and 3.6 percent for Medicare. ¹⁴
- Between 2001 and 2005 health insurance premiums rose by 68%. Between 1999 and 2005 the amount paid for deductibles rose 500% for the average family. Between 2000 and 2007 family health insurance premiums for Minnesota workers rose 4.3 times more quickly than median earnings. ¹⁵
- Health Care Costs add \$1,525 to the price of every General Motors vehicle. The company spent \$4.6 billion on health care in 2007, more than the cost of steel. ^{16, 17}
- Health care costs in the U.S have been rising at twice the rate of inflation. ¹⁸
- Families with health care insurance who spend more than 10% of their income are considered "underinsured", 53% of underinsured adults in 2008 went without needed care because of cost. ¹⁹
- In the U.S 37% of people report "rationing care" due to cost: they skip medication or recommended treatment, or decide not to see the doctor when sick. ²⁰
- The United States spends nearly \$100 billion per year to provide uninsured residents with health services, often for preventable diseases or diseases that physicians could treat more efficiently with earlier diagnosis. ²¹
- Sixty-two percent of personal bankruptcies are due to medical expenses. Three-quarters of those filings are by people with health insurance at the time of illness. This is a 50% rise from 2001-2007. ²²
- Medical disruptions are a major contributor to foreclosures, often striking in combination with other factors. Half of all respondents (49%) in a recent study indicated that their foreclosure was *caused* in part by a medical problem, including illness or injuries (32%), unmanageable medical bills (23%), lost work due to a medical problem (27%), or caring for sick family members (14%). ²³

- Only 49% of Americans receive screening and preventive care compared to an average on 80% in other developed countries.²⁴
- Only 5 states require insurers to spend at least 75% of collected premiums on providing health care, Minnesota is not one of them.²⁵
- Canada's single-payer system did not come into being all at once on the national level, but a province at a time.²⁶
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors, a nonpartisan organization of 1,100 mayors representing cities with populations over 30,000, met in Miami June 20-24th 2008. The assembly of mayors, in a unanimous vote, backed a resolution in support of single-payer national health insurance.²⁷
- In 2007 fifty-nine percent of U.S. physicians surveyed support national health insurance (single-payer), a 10% increase since 2002. 64% of MN physicians support single-payer. More physicians support single-payer than incremental reforms.²⁸
- A January, 2008 AP-Yahoo poll revealed that 65% of Americans said yes to the statement: "The United States should adopt a universal health insurance program in which everyone is covered under a program like Medicare that is run by the government and financed by taxpayers."²⁹

¹ <http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/americans-at-risk.pdf>

² <http://wonkroom.thinkprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/healthcareincrisischarts.pdf>

³ Kaiser Family Foundation & Health Research and Educational Trust, Employer Health Benefits 10. 2008 Annual Survey. (Menlo Park, CA: Kaiser Family Foundation, 2008). <http://ehbs.kff.org/?page=abstract&id=1>

⁴ <http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/premiums-vs-paychecks-2008/minnesota.pdf>

⁵ December 2009, Vol 99, No. 12 | American Journal of Public Health, <http://www.familiesusa.org/issues/uninsured/publications/dying-for-coverage.html>

⁶ Ezekiel J. Emanuel, *Healthcare Guaranteed: A Simple, Secure, Solution for America* (New York: Public Affairs, 2008): 21.

⁷ Institute of Medicine, *Hidden Costs, Value Lost: Uninsurance in America*. (Washington, DC: 20. National Academies Press, June 2003).

⁸ J. Hadley, "Insurance Coverage, Medical Care Use, and Short-Term Health Changes Following an Unintended Injury or the Onset of a Chronic Condition," *JAMA* 2007; 297 (10): 1073-1084.

⁹ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. OECD Health Data 2008. http://www.businessroundtable.org/sites/default/files/BRT_Hewitt_HC%20Reform%20Report_Sept2009_FinalONLINE.pdf

¹⁰ Keehan, S. et al. "Health Spending Projections Through 2017, Health Affairs Web Exclusive W146: 21 February 2008.

¹¹ <http://wonkroom.thinkprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/healthcareincrisischarts.pdf>

¹² <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2102rank.html>.

¹³ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2091rank.html>

¹⁴ Steffie Woolhandler, M.D., M.P.H, Terry Campbell, M.H.A, and David U. Himmelstein, M.D., "Costs of Health Care Administration in the United States and Canada" *The New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 349; 8 (August 2008): 768-771.

¹⁵ <http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/premiums-vs-paychecks-2008/minnesota.pdf>

¹⁶ R. Wagoner, Testimony before the House Financial Services Committee, December 5, 2008. 6.

¹⁷ <http://thinkprogress.org/2008/12/05/gm-health-care-reform/>

¹⁸ Keehan, S. et al. "Health Spending Projections Through 2017, Health Affairs Web Exclusive W146: 21 February 2008.

¹⁹ <http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/premiums-vs-paychecks-2008/minnesota.pdf>

²⁰ The Commonwealth Fund, 2007 International Health Policy Survey in Seven Countries www.commonwealthfund.org

²¹ Institute of Medicine, *Hidden Costs, Values Lost: Uninsurance in America* (The National Academies Press: 17 June 2003) <http://www.iom.edu/Report.asp?id=12313>.

²² Himmelstein, D, E. Warren, D. Thorne, and S. Woolhandler, "Medical Bankruptcy in the U.S. 2007: Results of a National Study," *American Journal of Medicine*, August 2009 (Vol. 122, Issue 8, pg 741-746.

²³ Robertson, Egelhof & Hoke Get Sick, Get out: the medical causes of home foreclosures, *Health Matrix Cleveland*. 2008 Winter; 18 (1): 65-104.

²⁴ Ezekiel J. Emanuel, *Healthcare Guaranteed: A Simple, Secure, Solution for America* (New York: PublicAffairs, 2008): 2.

²⁵ <http://www.familiesusa.org/assets/pdfs/failing-grades.pdf>

²⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Health_Act#Health_insurance_before_the_CHA

²⁷ http://www.usmayors.org/resolutions/76th_conference/chhs_03.asp

²⁸ <http://www.minnesotamedicine.com/PastIssues/February2007/ClinicalHealthCareFebruary2007/tabid/1709/Default.aspx>

²⁹ http://www.pnhp.org/news/2008/december/americans_support_si.php