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HEALTH CARE DOESN'T HAVE TO COST AN ARM AND A LEG: 29 Reasons for Optimism from Comparisons between Countries and U.S. States

Months of bare-knuckled wrangling over health care reform have given rise to a widespread view that there's nothing on which Democrats and Republicans can agree. But there is one: politicians on both sides of the aisle agree that **health care is far too expensive**. And they're right. Total public and private health spending in 2009 was almost \$2.5 trillion. In the next hour, the nation will spend \$280 million on our health.

But policy makers and everyday Americans alike have reason to be optimistic that dramatically lower costs are possible. Why? **Because residents of twenty-nine countries live longer lives, on average, than Americans do – while spending as much as eight times less on their health.** That's twenty-nine reasons for optimism that the U.S. can reign in health care costs while also getting better results.

U.S. life expectancy at birth – 78.3 – is on par with that of Chile, a country that spends a tenth of what the U.S. spends. When it comes to the survival of the youngest Americans, the picture is worse: the U.S. ranks 39th in the world for infant survival. A baby born today in Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, or Cuba has a better chance of living to celebrate his or her first birthday than does a baby born in the U.S. Combined public and private health care spending in the U.S. amounts to over \$7,000 per person each year. For less than half the price, citizens of Australia, Israel, Italy, and Spain outlive us. And they are not alone.

Some have argued that comparing the U.S. – with its large, diverse population and a federalized system that assigns significant responsibility for health care to the states – to smaller European countries is like comparing an apple to oranges. To allow for a more nuanced analysis, the **American Human Development Project** has calculated life expectancy at birth as well as infant death rates for each of the 50 states plus Washington D.C., enabling comparisons among U.S. states and between U.S. states and other countries. So how do we stack up? Do the states do a better – or worse – job than other countries and the U.S. as a whole at turning health dollars into years of human life?

KEY FINDINGS

Life expectancy by state ranges from 81.1 years in Hawaii to 74.3 years in Mississippi, a span of eight years. Spending ranges from \$4,124 per person annually in Utah to more than double that sum – \$8,614 – in Washington, D.C. Tables in the appendix rank U.S. states and 80 countries by life expectancy at birth (Table 1), infant death rate (Table 2), and health expenditures per person (Table 3).

Life expectancy:

- Life expectancy in Hawaii (81.1 years) approaches that of top-ranked Japan (82.3 years), but Japan spends half what Hawaii does.
- Delaware and Cuba have the same life expectancy (78 years), but Cuba spends nine times less per person.
- Life expectancy in Alabama (74.8 years) and Louisiana (74.7 years) is comparable to that of Ecuador, yet spending in Ecuador is about 13 times less.
- Albanians live longer than residents of eight U.S. states (Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, and West Virginia) and Washington, D.C., but Albania spends between 12 and 21 times less than each.

Infant deaths:

- Thirty nations, including less affluent countries like Portugal, Slovenia, and Malta, have a lower infant death rate than Washington State, which has the lowest rate of infant death among U.S. states. Estonia, whose rate of 4.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births is comparable to Washington's, spends about a fifth of what Washington spends on health.
- The nation's capital, which has the highest infant mortality rate in the nation (12.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births) does only marginally better than Belarus (12.4), despite spending 13 times more on health care.

This research makes plain that Americans are paying top dollar for mediocre results. **But it also shows that, in the U.S. case, there is no relationship between higher health spending and better health outcomes.** Among very poor countries, small changes in health care expenditures are associated with large changes in life expectancy, since roughly a third of deaths are among children who die for want of low-cost interventions like immunizations and safe water. This is not the case among high-income countries like the U.S., where the leading causes of death are chronic conditions like heart disease and cancer. Here, good health depends upon a host of interrelated factors, from access to care, to the physical and social environments in which we live, to the decisions we make in our daily lives.

MANY FACTORS INFLUENCE LIFE EXPECTANCY

Two states, Minnesota and Mississippi, showcase the many components that fuel life expectancy gaps.

- **Minnesota** has the second-highest life expectancy in the U.S (80.6 years), a lifespan comparable to that found in France, Sweden, and Spain. Evidence suggests that many factors contribute to the longevity of Minnesotans. For instance, 91.5% of Minnesotans have health insurance, a higher percentage than in any other state but Massachusetts. Minnesotans also smoke less and exercise more than the national average. And while the state's health spending overall is below the national average, spending on public health, such as childhood immunization, food safety, and cancer screening clinics, is well above the national average.
- **Mississippi** has the nation's lowest life expectancy (73.4 years), a lifespan less than that of Mexico, which spends six times less on health. Nearly one in five Mississippians lack health insurance of some kind, a higher percentage than all but seven other states. Mississippi is second only to West Virginia in diabetes diagnoses, and the prevalence of adult obesity, at a full third of all adults, is 25 percent higher than the national average. Mississippians are also less likely to exercise regularly than the residents of any other state except for their neighbors in Louisiana. Finally, Mississippi has the highest rate of adults over the age of 25 who did not complete high school. Education is one of the strongest drivers of good health: better-educated people tend to practice healthier behaviors, are more informed consumers of medical services, and are more likely to adhere to treatment regimes. And parents with more education tend to be more effective in supporting healthy outcomes for their children.

CONCLUSION

Every health care system in the world has its flaws; there is no perfect way to balance the many trade-offs such that everyone wins all the time. Some systems require long waits for elective procedures; others do not cover experimental therapies; still others place limits on certain services. Some have explicit rationing systems based on medical need, unlike the U.S., which has a tacit rationing system based on ability to pay.

But quality care doesn't have to cost an arm and a leg. What at least twenty-nine of these flawed, imperfect systems have managed to do is to provide affordable, high-quality health care to most of the population at a fraction of the U.S. cost and with better results. We must take the first steps without requiring that they be a perfect or final arrangement.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The American Human Development Project is dedicated to stimulating fact-based public debate about and political attention to issues of well-being and access to opportunity in the United States. The hallmark of this work is the American Human Development Index, a composite measure that reflects what most people believe are basic ingredients of a good life: health, education, and income. The Project is an initiative of the Social Science Research Council made possible through the generous support of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and The Lincy Foundation. For more information, visit www.measureofamerica.org.

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Notes:

Health Expenditure Data – Health expenditure data by state were calculated by the Kaiser Family Foundation based on data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Data are from 2004, the most recent year available. Health expenditure data by country, including the U.S., were accessed through the World Health Organization (WHO), National Health Accounts. Data are from 2006 and are expressed in Purchasing Power Parity terms. Due to an inconsistency in the World Health Organization data on health expenditures, data for Belgium were taken from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's *Health Data 2009 - Frequently Requested Data* document. Dollar amounts from various years were adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and presented in constant 2008 dollars.

Life Expectancy and Infant Mortality Data – Life expectancy at birth and infant mortality rates were calculated by the American Human Development Project using raw mortality data obtained from the National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and population data from the CDC WONDER database. Data are from 2006. Health outcomes data for countries other than the U.S. were taken from the World Bank World Development Indicators online database.

Insurance Coverage Data – Rates of uninsurance and insurance coverage by type were obtained from Kaiser State Health Facts (<http://statehealthfacts.org/index.jsp>). Data are from 2007-2008 and come from the Urban Institute and Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured estimates based on the Census Bureau's March 2008 and 2009 Current Population Survey.

Health Risk Factors Data - Data on incidence and prevalence of smoking, obesity, diabetes, and physical activity come from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control, Department of Health and Human Services (<http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.htm>). Data are from 2008 (except physical activity, which is from 2007) and reflect responses from adults 18 and over. "Obese" refers to a body mass index of 30.0 – 99.8. "Physical activity" refers to the percentage of adults who report doing 30 or more minutes of moderate physical activity five or more days per week or vigorous physical activity for 20 or more minutes three or more days per week.

TABLE I: U.S. STATES AND COUNTRIES RANKED BY LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

COUNTRY / STATE ^a	HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (2008 US\$) ^b	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2006 (YEARS) ^c	INFANT DEATH RATE, 2006 (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) ^e
<i>Japan</i>	2,756	82.3	2.6
<i>San Marino</i>	3,458	82.2	3.8
<i>Switzerland</i>	4,463	81.5	4.3
<i>Iceland</i>	3,425	81.2	1.8
Hawaii	5,131	81.1	5.7
<i>Italy</i>	2,810	81.1	3.4
<i>Australia</i>	3,331	81.0	4.9
<i>Spain</i>	2,633	80.8	3.7
<i>Sweden</i>	3,377	80.8	2.7
Minnesota	6,018	80.6	5.3
<i>France</i>	3,652	80.6	3.7
<i>Canada</i>	3,922	80.4	5.0
<i>Norway</i>	4,826	80.3	3.1
<i>Israel</i>	2,172	80.3	4.1
<i>Singapore</i>	1,640	80.1	2.3
<i>New Zealand</i>	2,614	80.0	5.0
New York	6,786	80.0	5.8
Utah	4,124	79.9	5.2
California	4,816	79.9	5.2
Massachusetts	6,939	79.9	4.9
<i>Austria</i>	3,853	79.8	3.8
Connecticut	6,588	79.8	6.3
New Hampshire	5,640	79.8	5.7
<i>Netherlands</i>	3,717	79.7	4.5
Colorado	4,898	79.7	5.8
Washington	5,288	79.6	4.7
Vermont	6,302	79.6	5.8
Iowa	5,587	79.5	5.2
<i>Belgium</i>	3,584	79.5	3.8
<i>Greece</i>	2,720	79.4	3.7
North Dakota	6,031	79.4	6.0
<i>Ireland</i>	3,317	79.4	4.1
Nebraska	5,814	79.3	5.7
<i>Cyprus</i>	2,941	79.3	3.6
Wisconsin	5,888	79.3	6.5
New Jersey	6,030	79.2	5.8

COUNTRY / STATE ^a	HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (2008 US\$) ^b	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2006 (YEARS) ^c	INFANT DEATH RATE, 2006 (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) ^e
<i>Finland</i>	2,836	79.2	3.0
Rhode Island	6,431	79.2	6.1
<i>Luxembourg</i>	5,867	79.2	2.7
Florida	5,694	79.2	7.2
<i>United Kingdom</i>	3,006	79.1	5.0
<i>Germany</i>	3,700	79.1	3.8
<i>United Arab Emirates</i>	1,505	79.1	7.5
South Dakota	5,532	79.1	7.2
Idaho	4,615	79.0	6.9
<i>South Korea</i>	1,567	79.0	4.5
Arizona	4,261	79.0	6.5
Oregon	5,068	78.7	5.6
<i>Costa Rica</i>	832	78.7	10.7
Maine	6,791	78.6	6.4
<i>Malta</i>	4,510	78.5	4.5
<i>Portugal</i>	2,348	78.4	3.3
Illinois	5,496	78.4	7.3
Virginia	5,007	78.4	7.3
United States	7,175	78.3	6.8
<i>Chile</i>	736	78.3	8.1
Montana	5,275	78.2	6.1
Texas	4,778	78.2	6.3
Alaska	6,698	78.2	7.1
<i>Denmark</i>	4,029	78.1	3.8
Kansas	5,588	78.1	7.5
<i>Cuba</i>	720	78.0	5.2
Delaware	6,548	78.0	8.3
New Mexico	4,643	78.0	5.9
Maryland	5,805	77.9	8.0
Pennsylvania	6,161	77.9	7.9
Michigan	5,252	77.8	7.4
<i>Slovenia</i>	2,203	77.7	3.5
<i>Kuwait</i>	1,021	77.6	9.5
Ohio	5,945	77.3	7.9
Wyoming	5,468	77.3	7.6
<i>Brunei Darussalam</i>	1,005	77.1	8.0

TABLE I: U.S. STATES AND COUNTRIES RANKED BY LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, CONTINUED

COUNTRY / STATE ^a	HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (2008 US\$) ^b	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2006 (YEARS) ^c	INFANT DEATH RATE, 2006 (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) ^c
Indiana	5,498	77.1	8.1
North Carolina	5,390	77.0	8.1
Missouri	5,653	77.0	7.6
Nevada	4,744	77.0	6.6
Georgia	4,776	76.8	8.2
Barbados	1,290	76.7	10.8
Czech Republic	1,614	76.5	3.3
South Carolina	5,310	76.4	8.8
Albania	407	76.3	14.2
Belize	355	76.0	21.9
Arkansas	5,050	75.9	8.6
Croatia	1,248	75.9	5.2
Kentucky	5,684	75.8	7.9
Tennessee	5,674	75.8	8.9
Uruguay	890	75.7	12.7
Oklahoma	5,106	75.7	8.1
Oman	562	75.5	11.0
Panama	788	75.4	18.2
West Virginia	6,183	75.3	7.5
Poland	981	75.1	6.0
District of Columbia	8,614	75.1	12.1
Argentina	1,287	75.0	..
Bosnia and Herzegovina	658	74.9	12.8
Ecuador	405	74.8	21.0
Alabama	5,333	74.8	9.2
Louisiana	5,233	74.7	11.8
Mexico	831	74.5	29.1
St. Lucia	634	74.4	13.7
Mississippi	5,254	74.3	10.9

COUNTRY / STATE ^a	HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (2008 US\$) ^b	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2006 (YEARS) ^c	INFANT DEATH RATE, 2006 (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) ^c
Slovak Republic	1,366	74.2	6.7
Malaysia	581	74.0	9.8
Montenegro	767	74.0	9.2
Macedonia	673	74.0	14.6
Libya	379	74.0	17.0
Tunisia	379	73.9	19.0
Syria	175	73.9	15.4
Vietnam	161	73.7	14.9
Venezuela	577	73.4	17.3
Serbia	825	73.2	7.2
Armenia	241	73.1	23.1
Hungary	1,593	73.1	5.9
Bahamas	1,999	72.9	12.6
Peru	337	72.8	18.9
Bulgaria	795	72.6	10.4
Colombia	495	72.6	17.6
Estonia	1,023	72.6	4.8
Saudi Arabia	769	72.5	20.6
Nicaragua	251	72.5	29.2
Mauritius	521	72.4	12.8
Jamaica	328	72.3	26.1
Seychelles	994	72.2	11.8
Romania	504	72.2	13.6
Jordan	465	72.1	21.4
Dominican Republic	405	72.0	31.8
Brazil	720	72.0	20.7
Andorra	3,182	..	2.6
Antigua and Barbuda	879	..	10.0
Dominica	520	..	9.5
Monaco	5,964	..	3.3

^a Tables 1-3 include all U.S. states plus Washington, D.C. and all independent countries with better life expectancy or infant death rate outcomes than at least the worst-performing U.S. state. Countries for which no health expenditure data were available were excluded. Countries with outcomes in these two areas that were worse than the worst-performing U.S. states are given only for context and these tables do not constitute a complete global ranking.

^b Health expenditure data for countries, including the U.S., are from the World Health Organization National Health Accounts and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2006. Data are presented in inflation- and Purchasing Power Parity-adjusted 2008 dollars. Health expenditure data for U.S. states are from Kaiser State Health Facts, based on data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Most recent data are from 2004, presented in inflation-adjusted 2008 dollars.

^c Life expectancy and infant mortality estimates for countries from the World Bank World Development Indicators Database. Data are from 2006 or most recent year available. Life expectancy and infant mortality data for the U.S. and for individual U.S. states calculated by the American Human Development Project using raw mortality data from the Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics and population data from the CDC WONDER database. Data are from 2006.

TABLE 2: U.S. STATES AND COUNTRIES RANKED BY INFANT DEATH RATE

COUNTRY / STATE ^a	HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (2008 US\$) ^b	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2006 (YEARS) ^c	INFANT DEATH RATE, 2006 (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) ^e
<i>Iceland</i>	3,425	81.2	1.8
<i>Singapore</i>	1,640	80.1	2.3
<i>Japan</i>	2,756	82.3	2.6
<i>Andorra</i>	3,182	..	2.6
<i>Sweden</i>	3,377	80.8	2.7
<i>Luxembourg</i>	5,867	79.2	2.7
<i>Finland</i>	2,836	79.2	3.0
<i>Norway</i>	4,826	80.3	3.1
<i>Portugal</i>	2,348	78.4	3.3
<i>Czech Republic</i>	1,614	76.5	3.3
<i>Monaco</i>	5,964	..	3.3
<i>Italy</i>	2,810	81.1	3.4
<i>Slovenia</i>	2,203	77.7	3.5
<i>Cyprus</i>	2,941	79.3	3.6
<i>Spain</i>	2,633	80.8	3.7
<i>France</i>	3,652	80.6	3.7
<i>Greece</i>	2,720	79.4	3.7
<i>San Marino</i>	3,458	82.2	3.8
<i>Austria</i>	3,853	79.8	3.8
<i>Belgium</i>	3,584	79.5	3.8
<i>Germany</i>	3,700	79.1	3.8
<i>Denmark</i>	4,029	78.1	3.8
<i>Israel</i>	2,172	80.3	4.1
<i>Ireland</i>	3,317	79.4	4.1
<i>Switzerland</i>	4,463	81.5	4.3
<i>Netherlands</i>	3,717	79.7	4.5
<i>Malta</i>	4,510	78.5	4.5
<i>South Korea</i>	1,567	79.0	4.5
Washington	5,288	79.6	4.7
<i>Estonia</i>	1,023	72.6	4.8
<i>Australia</i>	3,331	81.0	4.9
Massachusetts	6,939	79.9	4.9
<i>Canada</i>	3,922	80.4	5.0
<i>New Zealand</i>	2,614	80.0	5.0
<i>United Kingdom</i>	3,006	79.1	5.0
California	4,816	79.9	5.2

COUNTRY / STATE ^a	HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (2008 US\$) ^b	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2006 (YEARS) ^c	INFANT DEATH RATE, 2006 (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) ^e
<i>Cuba</i>	720	78.0	5.2
<i>Croatia</i>	1,248	75.9	5.2
Utah	4,124	79.9	5.2
Iowa	5,587	79.5	5.2
Minnesota	6,018	80.6	5.3
Oregon	5,068	78.7	5.6
New Hampshire	5,640	79.8	5.7
Nebraska	5,814	79.3	5.7
Hawaii	5,131	81.1	5.7
New York	6,786	80.0	5.8
Colorado	4,898	79.7	5.8
New Jersey	6,030	79.2	5.8
Vermont	6,302	79.6	5.8
<i>Hungary</i>	1,593	73.1	5.9
New Mexico	4,643	78.0	5.9
North Dakota	6,031	79.4	6.0
<i>Poland</i>	981	75.1	6.0
Montana	5,275	78.2	6.1
Rhode Island	6,431	79.2	6.1
Texas	4,778	78.2	6.3
Connecticut	6,588	79.8	6.3
Maine	6,791	78.6	6.4
Wisconsin	5,888	79.3	6.5
Arizona	4,261	79.0	6.5
Nevada	4,744	77.0	6.6
<i>Slovak Republic</i>	1,366	74.2	6.7
United States	7,175	78.3	6.8
Idaho	4,615	79.0	6.9
Alaska	6,698	78.2	7.1
South Dakota	5,532	79.1	7.2
<i>Serbia</i>	825	73.2	7.2
Florida	5,694	79.2	7.2
Virginia	5,007	78.4	7.3
Illinois	5,496	78.4	7.3
Michigan	5,252	77.8	7.4
Kansas	5,588	78.1	7.5

TABLE 2: U.S. STATES AND COUNTRIES RANKED BY INFANT DEATH RATE, CONTINUED

COUNTRY / STATE ^a	HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (2008 US\$) ^b	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2006 (YEARS) ^c	INFANT DEATH RATE, 2006 (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) ^c
<i>United Arab Emirates</i>	1,505	79.1	7.5
West Virginia	6,183	75.3	7.5
Missouri	5,653	77.0	7.6
Wyoming	5,468	77.3	7.6
Pennsylvania	6,161	77.9	7.9
Kentucky	5,684	75.8	7.9
Ohio	5,945	77.3	7.9
Maryland	5,805	77.9	8.0
<i>Brunei Darussalam</i>	1,005	77.1	8.0
North Carolina	5,390	77.0	8.1
Oklahoma	5,106	75.7	8.1
Indiana	5,498	77.1	8.1
<i>Chile</i>	736	78.3	8.1
Georgia	4,776	76.8	8.2
Delaware	6,548	78.0	8.3
Arkansas	5,050	75.9	8.6
South Carolina	5,310	76.4	8.8
Tennessee	5,674	75.8	8.9
Alabama	5,333	74.8	9.2
<i>Montenegro</i>	767	74.0	9.2
<i>Kuwait</i>	1,021	77.6	9.5
<i>Dominica</i>	520	..	9.5
<i>Malaysia</i>	581	74.0	9.8
<i>Antigua and Barbuda</i>	879	..	10.0
<i>Bulgaria</i>	795	72.6	10.4
<i>Costa Rica</i>	832	78.7	10.7
<i>Barbados</i>	1,290	76.7	10.8
Mississippi	5,254	74.3	10.9
<i>Oman</i>	562	75.5	11.0

COUNTRY / STATE ^a	HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (2008 US\$) ^b	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2006 (YEARS) ^c	INFANT DEATH RATE, 2006 (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) ^c
Louisiana	5,233	74.7	11.8
<i>Seychelles</i>	994	72.2	11.8
District of Columbia	8,614	75.1	12.1
<i>Bahamas</i>	1,999	72.9	12.6
<i>Uruguay</i>	890	75.7	12.7
<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	658	74.9	12.8
<i>Mauritius</i>	521	72.4	12.8
<i>Romania</i>	504	72.2	13.6
<i>St. Lucia</i>	634	74.4	13.7
<i>Albania</i>	407	76.3	14.2
<i>Macedonia</i>	673	74.0	14.6
<i>Vietnam</i>	161	73.7	14.9
<i>Syria</i>	175	73.9	15.4
<i>Libya</i>	379	74.0	17.0
<i>Venezuela</i>	577	73.4	17.3
<i>Colombia</i>	495	72.6	17.6
<i>Panama</i>	788	75.4	18.2
<i>Peru</i>	337	72.8	18.9
<i>Tunisia</i>	379	73.9	19.0
<i>Saudi Arabia</i>	769	72.5	20.6
<i>Brazil</i>	720	72.0	20.7
<i>Ecuador</i>	405	74.8	21.0
<i>Jordan</i>	465	72.1	21.4
<i>Belize</i>	355	76.0	21.9
<i>Armenia</i>	241	73.1	23.1
<i>Jamaica</i>	328	72.3	26.1
<i>Mexico</i>	831	74.5	29.1
<i>Nicaragua</i>	251	72.5	29.2
<i>Dominican Republic</i>	405	72.0	31.8
<i>Argentina</i>	1,287	75.0	..

^a Tables 1-3 include all U.S. states plus Washington, D.C. and all independent countries with better life expectancy or infant death rate outcomes than at least the worst-performing U.S. state. Countries for which no health expenditure data were available were excluded. Countries with outcomes in these two areas that were worse than the worst-performing U.S. states are given only for context and these tables do not constitute a complete global ranking.

^b Health expenditure data for countries, including the U.S., are from the World Health Organization National Health Accounts and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 2006. Data are presented in inflation- and Purchasing Power Parity-adjusted 2008 dollars. Health expenditure data for U.S. states are from Kaiser State Health Facts, based on data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Most recent data are from 2004, presented in inflation-adjusted 2008 dollars.

^c Life expectancy and infant mortality estimates for countries from the World Bank World Development Indicators Database. Data are from 2006 or most recent year available. Life expectancy and infant mortality data for the U.S. and for individual U.S. states calculated by the American Human Development Project using raw mortality data from the Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics and population data from the CDC WONDER database. Data are from 2006.

TABLE 3: U.S. STATES AND COUNTRIES RANKED BY HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON

COUNTRY / STATE ^a	HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (2008 US\$) ^b	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2006 (YEARS) ^c	INFANT DEATH RATE, 2006 (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) ^e
District of Columbia	8,614	75.1	12.1
United States	7,175	78.3	6.8
Massachusetts	6,939	79.9	4.9
Maine	6,791	78.6	6.4
New York	6,786	80.0	5.8
Alaska	6,698	78.2	7.1
Connecticut	6,588	79.8	6.3
Delaware	6,548	78.0	8.3
Rhode Island	6,431	79.2	6.1
Vermont	6,302	79.6	5.8
West Virginia	6,183	75.3	7.5
Pennsylvania	6,161	77.9	7.9
North Dakota	6,031	79.4	6.0
New Jersey	6,030	79.2	5.8
Minnesota	6,018	80.6	5.3
Monaco	5,964	..	3.3
Ohio	5,945	77.3	7.9
Wisconsin	5,888	79.3	6.5
Luxembourg	5,867	79.2	2.7
Nebraska	5,814	79.3	5.7
Maryland	5,805	77.9	8.0
Florida	5,694	79.2	7.2
Kentucky	5,684	75.8	7.9
Tennessee	5,674	75.8	8.9
Missouri	5,653	77.0	7.6
New Hampshire	5,640	79.8	5.7
Kansas	5,588	78.1	7.5
Iowa	5,587	79.5	5.2
South Dakota	5,532	79.1	7.2
Indiana	5,498	77.1	8.1
Illinois	5,496	78.4	7.3
Wyoming	5,468	77.3	7.6
North Carolina	5,390	77.0	8.1
Alabama	5,333	74.8	9.2
South Carolina	5,310	76.4	8.8
Washington	5,288	79.6	4.7

COUNTRY / STATE ^a	HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (2008 US\$) ^b	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2006 (YEARS) ^c	INFANT DEATH RATE, 2006 (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) ^e
Montana	5,275	78.2	6.1
Mississippi	5,254	74.3	10.9
Michigan	5,252	77.8	7.4
Louisiana	5,233	74.7	11.8
Hawaii	5,131	81.1	5.7
Oklahoma	5,106	75.7	8.1
Oregon	5,068	78.7	5.6
Arkansas	5,050	75.9	8.6
Virginia	5,007	78.4	7.3
Colorado	4,898	79.7	5.8
Norway	4,826	80.3	3.1
California	4,816	79.9	5.2
Texas	4,778	78.2	6.3
Georgia	4,776	76.8	8.2
Nevada	4,744	77.0	6.6
New Mexico	4,643	78.0	5.9
Idaho	4,615	79.0	6.9
Malta	4,510	78.5	4.5
Switzerland	4,463	81.5	4.3
Arizona	4,261	79.0	6.5
Utah	4,124	79.9	5.2
Denmark	4,029	78.1	3.8
Canada	3,922	80.4	5.0
Austria	3,853	79.8	3.8
Netherlands	3,717	79.7	4.5
Germany	3,700	79.1	3.8
France	3,652	80.6	3.7
Belgium	3,584	79.5	3.8
San Marino	3,458	82.2	3.8
Iceland	3,425	81.2	1.8
Sweden	3,377	80.8	2.7
Australia	3,331	81.0	4.9
Ireland	3,317	79.4	4.1
Andorra	3,182	..	2.6
United Kingdom	3,006	79.1	5.0
Cyprus	2,941	79.3	3.6

TABLE 3: U.S. STATES AND COUNTRIES RANKED BY HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON, CONTINUED

COUNTRY / STATE ^a	HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (2008 US\$) ^b	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2006 (YEARS) ^c	INFANT DEATH RATE, 2006 (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) ^c
<i>Finland</i>	2,836	79.2	3.0
<i>Italy</i>	2,810	81.1	3.4
<i>Japan</i>	2,756	82.3	2.6
<i>Greece</i>	2,720	79.4	3.7
<i>Spain</i>	2,633	80.8	3.7
<i>New Zealand</i>	2,614	80.0	5.0
<i>Portugal</i>	2,348	78.4	3.3
<i>Slovenia</i>	2,203	77.7	3.5
<i>Israel</i>	2,172	80.3	4.1
<i>Bahamas</i>	1,999	72.9	12.6
<i>Singapore</i>	1,640	80.1	2.3
<i>Czech Republic</i>	1,614	76.5	3.3
<i>Hungary</i>	1,593	73.1	5.9
<i>South Korea</i>	1,567	79.0	4.5
<i>United Arab Emirates</i>	1,505	79.1	7.5
<i>Slovak Republic</i>	1,366	74.2	6.7
<i>Barbados</i>	1,290	76.7	10.8
<i>Argentina</i>	1,287	75.0	..
<i>Croatia</i>	1,248	75.9	5.2
<i>Estonia</i>	1,023	72.6	4.8
<i>Kuwait</i>	1,021	77.6	9.5
<i>Brunei Darussalam</i>	1,005	77.1	8.0
<i>Seychelles</i>	994	72.2	11.8
<i>Poland</i>	981	75.1	6.0
<i>Uruguay</i>	890	75.7	12.7
<i>Antigua and Barbuda</i>	879	..	10.0
<i>Costa Rica</i>	832	78.7	10.7
<i>Mexico</i>	831	74.5	29.1
<i>Serbia</i>	825	73.2	7.2

COUNTRY / STATE ^a	HEALTH EXPENDITURE PER PERSON (2008 US\$) ^b	LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, 2006 (YEARS) ^c	INFANT DEATH RATE, 2006 (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS) ^c
<i>Bulgaria</i>	795	72.6	10.4
<i>Panama</i>	788	75.4	18.2
<i>Saudi Arabia</i>	769	72.5	20.6
<i>Montenegro</i>	767	74.0	9.2
<i>Chile</i>	736	78.3	8.1
<i>Cuba</i>	720	78.0	5.2
<i>Brazil</i>	720	72.0	20.7
<i>Macedonia</i>	673	74.0	14.6
<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	658	74.9	12.8
<i>St. Lucia</i>	634	74.4	13.7
<i>Malaysia</i>	581	74.0	9.8
<i>Venezuela</i>	577	73.4	17.3
<i>Oman</i>	562	75.5	11.0
<i>Mauritius</i>	521	72.4	12.8
<i>Dominica</i>	520	..	9.5
<i>Romania</i>	504	72.2	13.6
<i>Colombia</i>	495	72.6	17.6
<i>Jordan</i>	465	72.1	21.4
<i>Albania</i>	407	76.3	14.2
<i>Ecuador</i>	405	74.8	21.0
<i>Dominican Republic</i>	405	72.0	31.8
<i>Libya</i>	379	74.0	17.0
<i>Tunisia</i>	379	73.9	19.0
<i>Belize</i>	355	76.0	21.9
<i>Peru</i>	337	72.8	18.9
<i>Jamaica</i>	328	72.3	26.1
<i>Nicaragua</i>	251	72.5	29.2
<i>Armenia</i>	241	73.1	23.1
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