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# **Real Health Reform Starts With Prevention**



**What's so Bad about Living Longer?**  
**Congressional Briefing**  
**February 4, 2009**

## Who We Are

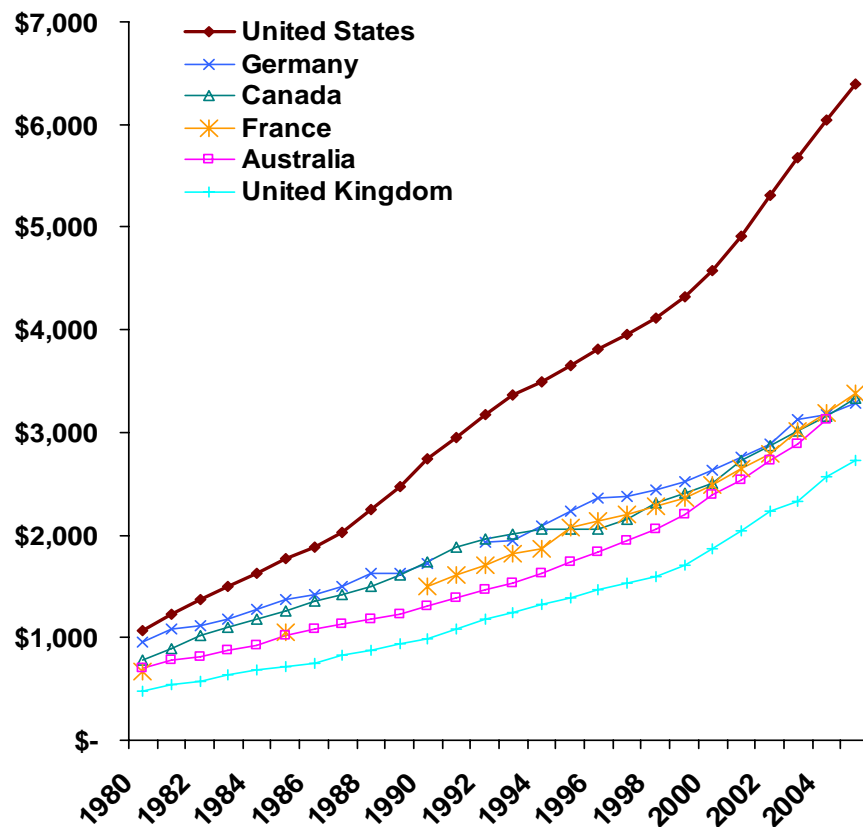
- Nonprofit, non-partisan national health policy organization
- Working to improve the health of all Americans by increasing the priority on disease prevention and health promotion

## What We Do

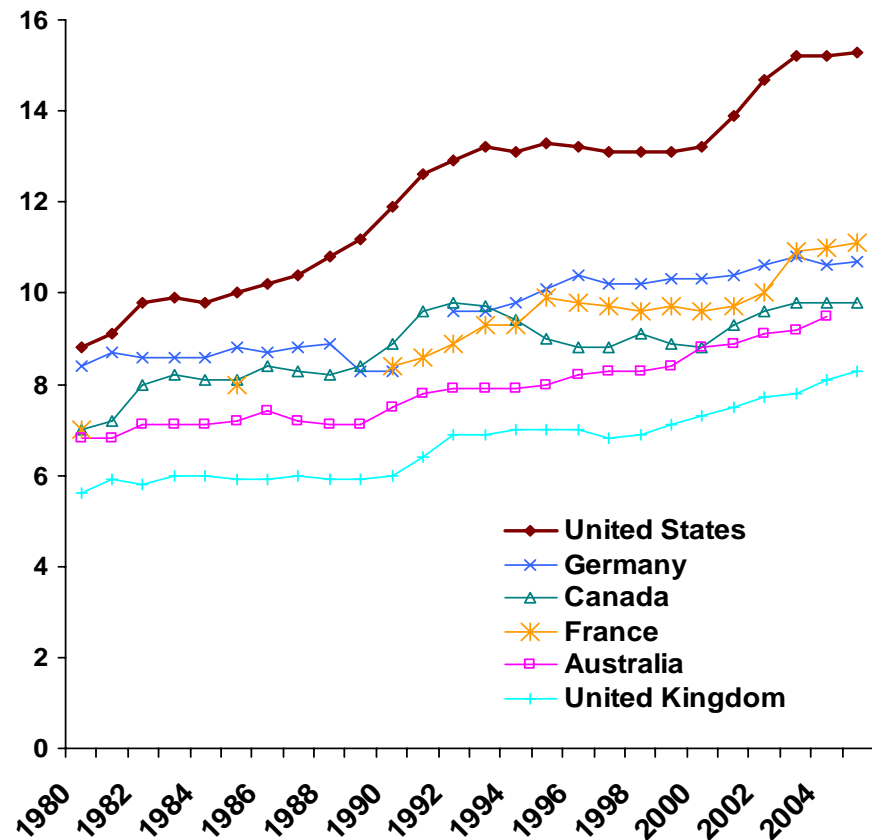
- Develop, disseminate and advocate for science-based policies, practices, and programs
- Convene various sectors to address priority health concerns
- Leverage the workplace to improve health
- Translate evidence-based public health evidence and research into policy and practice

# International Comparison of Spending on Health, 1980–2005

Average spending on health per capita (\$US PPP\*)



Total expenditures on health as percent of GDP



\* PPP=Purchasing Power Parity.  
 Data: OECD Health Data 2007, Version 10/2007.



# Principles for Prevention-Centered Health Reform

## What Congress Can Do

### **1. Increase the delivery of effective clinical preventive services**

- Provide coverage in federally-sponsored health insurance programs and create incentives for Medicaid and SCHIP to cover them
- Increase reimbursement in government-sponsored health insurance programs for cost-effective preventive services, offer first-dollar coverage of the services to consumers
- Provide incentives to health care providers for achieving high delivery rates, and to employers for establishing workplace health promotion programs and policies

## What Congress Can Do

### **2. Increase the delivery of community preventive services**

- Create a discrete, sustainable funding source to support state and local core public health activities and provide incentives for states to meet specified public health objectives
- Establish a Public Health Advisory Commission to recommend strategies for achieving key national health objectives and for allocating core public health funds
- Support consumer education initiatives encouraging individuals to adopt healthy behaviors

## What Congress Can Do

### **3. Increase knowledge about the effectiveness and delivery of preventive services**

- Expand support for research on effective clinical and community preventive services and effects of policies that fall outside the health sphere
- Invest in data systems to monitor progress toward achieving national health objectives and reducing health disparities in access to preventive services

## Model Legislative Language is available

To craft legislation bringing to center stage two  
priorities central to health care  
and public health reform.



## Primary Goal of Reform

- The primary goal of any health reform legislation should be to:

Improve the health of the American people

## Define Prevention Broadly

Prevention is:

- Personal, clinical preventive services;
- Community-based prevention and public health interventions; and
- Social and economic policies central to health improvement.

**ALL EVIDENCED-BASED**



## For more information:

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