

# Healthcare Stats & Facts

Provided by LIFESPAN Care Management, LLC

## General

Every day in America, the equivalent of six jumbo jets filled with people die from medical mistakes, at a cost of more than 750,000 lives a year.

The United States is ranked 37<sup>th</sup> worldwide in overall health system performance by the *World Health Organization*.

"Nine out of every ten Americans say the U.S. health care system is broken." *(Center for American Progress, 2/2006)*

"Americans spend more than \$27 billion annually on alternative and complementary medicine... millions of people are taking active steps to venture outside the mainstream... 48% of American adults used at least one alternative or complementary therapy in 2004 "

*(New York Times, 2/3/2006)*

More U.S. adults are concerned about health care costs than the war in Iraq. *(Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 3/23/2007)*

In 2003, "60 million Americans had multiple chronic conditions," involving care from various healthcare providers, including, but not limited to *Primary Care Physician, Emergency Department Personnel: nursing, nursing assistants, radiology technician, registrar, transport; Inpatient Care Providers: cardiology, nephrology, orthopedics, diabetologist, psychiatrist, nurse practitioners and/or physician assistants, nutritionist, social worker, physical therapist, occupational therapist, case manager, interpreter; Perioperative Care Providers: surgeon, surgical technicians, operating room nurses, anesthesiologist, recovery room nurses, perioperative services case manager; Other Indirect Care Providers: lab technicians, radiologists, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, family members. More than twenty professionals – at a minimum - are involved in the typical current patient's single episode of care, transitioning the patient between so many facilities and healthcare professionals that the risk for an adverse event or an unsafe experience increases. The level of coordinated care required for the process to come off successfully is extraordinary.*

*(Professional Case Management 1/2007)*

In 2002, the United States spent \$5,267 per person on healthcare, while other industrialized countries spent:

Canada .....	\$2,931.00
Germany .....	\$2,816.00
Britain .....	\$2,160.00

Yet, the United States has lower life expectancy and higher infant mortality rates than any of these countries.

*(New York Times, 1/7/2005)*

In 2006, the United States spent \$6,102 per person on healthcare, an increase of \$835 in just one year, while other industrialized countries spent:

Canada .....	\$3,165, an increase of \$234
Germany .....	\$2,996, an increase of \$188
Britain .....	\$2,508, an increase of \$348

We pay an average of 203% more per capita on healthcare than other industrialized nations of the world.

Our life expectancy is still lower (77.5) and our infant mortality rate is still higher (6.9 per thousand births).

*(www.cmwf.org/usr\_doc/Davis\_mirrormirror\_915.pdf)*

The American College of Physicians estimates that by the year 2015, 150 million Americans will have at least one chronic health condition. *(AARP Bulletin, 2/2007)*

Now the U.S. has an enormous private health care bureaucracy that exists chiefly to deny people coverage, and we spend more on it than other countries spend on public bureaucracies that exist chiefly to extend coverage. *(Keiranhealy.org)*

Average out-of-pocket expense for healthcare in the USA is \$2784/year .

The New England Journal of Medicine has found that American patients receive proper medical care only 55% of the time . *(3/16/2006)*

"Health care will account for 1 in 5 dollars spent in the United States by 2015." *(Los Angeles Times, 2/22/2006)*

## Drugs

Newstarget.com headline on 2/20/2006 website: "Statistics prove prescription drugs are 16,400% more deadly than terrorists."

"... problems related to the use of pharmaceutical drugs account for nearly 10 percent of all hospital admissions, and significantly contribute to increased morbidity and mortality in the United States." *(Bates, 1995)*

The global pharmaceutical industry generated revenues of more than \$364 billion in 2001 and is the world's most profitable stock market sector. Half of global drug sales are in the USA. *(IMS Health: Drug Industry Market Analyst, 2004)*

\$13.2 billion spent on pharmaceutical marketing in the US in 2000.

The division of the FDA that approves new drugs receives half its support from drug companies in return for quick reviews. That means the FDA is dependent on the industry it's

supposed to regulate and spends more on rushing drugs to market than making sure they're safe. The FDA's advisory committee members also are on the industry's payroll because many members work as drug company consultants.

A study conducted by *Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston* conducted in July of 2005 found that 4.2 million hospital visits were for the treatment of an adverse drug event (15 visits per 1,000 Americans).

The pharmaceutical industry has the largest lobby in Washington, D.C., the industry employs more lobbyists than there are Congress members.

In the year 2000, American doctors wrote a total of 2.8 billion prescription drugs, an average of 10 per person.

*(The National Center for Health Statistics)*

*The Center for Drug Safety* says that 26.5% of all patients experience an allergic reaction from prescribed medication.

The pharmaceutical industry claims to be innovative, yet only a small fraction of its drugs can be classified as original. *The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)* determined nearly 80 percent of drugs approved in the past seven years were no better than those already on the market. Some 70 percent were old drugs in slightly new forms.

The pharmaceutical industry's principal output is minor variations or combinations of old drugs—"me-too" drugs. These drugs cash in on already established, lucrative markets. For example, the world's top-selling drug, Pfizer's Lipitor, is the fourth of six cholesterol-lowering drugs of the same type.

*The Journal of the American Medical Association* estimates that the risk of death doubles due to adverse drug events and that 9.7% of these events cause permanent disability.

## Hospitals

The United States loses more American lives to patient safety incidents every six months than it did in the entire Vietnam War.

*(New York Times, Dec 1, 1999)*

"Today, going to an American hospital seems about as safe as parachuting off a bridge."

*(New York Times, 8/29/2005)*

There are 2 million cases of hospital-acquired infections in the U.S. yearly, causing 100,000 deaths.

*(Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)*

*The National Institutes of Health* estimates 92,000 deaths per year in 2006 due to hospital-acquired infections -- up from 13,300 in 1992.

Visits to EDs for adverse effects have increased over time, particularly for selected age groups. Between 1992 and 1999, visits to EDs for injuries caused by adverse effects of medical treatments or surgical procedures increased 67 percent for all ages, 103 percent for persons aged 45-64, and 110 percent for seniors.

*(National Center for Health Statistics, 2003)*

"If (hospital) performance levels... applied to the airline and banking industries, it would equate to two dangerous landings per day at O'Hare International Airport and 32,000 checks deducted from the wrong account per hour."

*(Leape, 1994)*

The Patient Safety Incidents with the highest incident rates per 1,000 hospitalizations at risk were Failure to Rescue (i.e., failure to diagnose and treat in time), Decubitus Ulcer (bed sores), and Post-operative Sepsis (infection). These three patient safety incidents accounted for almost 60% of all patient safety incidents among Medicare patients hospitalized from 2000 through 2002.

*(Health Grades, Inc., 2004)*

50% of preventable in-hospital deaths were linked to just four diagnoses: heart failure, community-acquired pneumonia, sepsis (blood infection) and respiratory failure, the researchers at *HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study* found. The same study went on to say that a typical patient has 69 percent lower risk of dying in a 5-star hospital compared with a 1-star hospital, and a 49 percent lower risk of dying in a 5-star hospital compared to an average-quality U.S. hospital

Hospital-acquired infections rates worsened by approximately 20 percent from 2000 to 2003 and accounted for 9,552 deaths.

*(Health Grades, Inc. 2005)*

According to a 2005 study by the *Joint Commission*, American hospitals provide heart failure patients instructions upon discharge only 59.2% of the time.

Data from the *American College of Emergency Physicians*, which represents 23,000 ER doctors, paints a chilling picture of a system in decline. The capacity of the nation's emergency systems has decreased by 14 percent since 1993, ACEP says, as more than one thousand hospitals have closed their emergency departments nationwide. Meanwhile, demand continues to increase, with 114 million ER visits reported in 2003, the highest number the CDC has ever recorded.

## Caregivers

More than 34 million Americans provide care to a family member.

*(USA Today Weekend Magazine, 2/5/2007)*

Long-distance caregivers spend an average of \$392/month on travel and out-of-pocket expenses.

*(USA Today Weekend Magazine, 2/5/2007)*

Local caregivers spent an average of \$324/month.

*(New York Times, 12/30/2006)*

59% of caregivers are employed.

*(National Alliance for Caregiving, 2005)*

The average caregiver loses \$566,500 in wages, \$67,000 in pension benefits and \$25,500 in Social Security benefits for an average lifetime loss of \$659,000.

*(MetLife Market Institute Study, 1999)*

"...across the income spectrum, children are sacrificing to care for their parents to the limit of their means and beyond."

*(Dr. Robert Kane, geriatrician, University of Minnesota School of Public Health)*

"Stressed out caregivers are susceptible to a whole host of problems as their immune system becomes compromised under the weight and associated guilt of caregiving. Migraine headaches and GI disorders are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the impact caregiver stress has on individuals. Caregivers overwhelmed by stress are also highly susceptible to depression." *(Today's Caregiver Magazine, Spring 2007)*

Working caregivers cost businesses approximately \$34 billion a year due to absenteeism, hiring replacement workers and other lost productivity. *(National Alliance for Caregiving)*

By 2020, one in three US households is expected to be involved in caring for elderly or disabled relatives - up from one in four in 2006. *(Wall Street Journal, 7/27/2006)*

Researchers at Indiana University recently surveyed 3,000 women. They found that the longer women cared for a sick relative, the more likely they were to suffer depression, insomnia, and even physical difficulties climbing stairs or lifting heavy objects. The study was published in the March, 2000 issue of the *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

### Health Insurance

Health insurance premiums rose 11.2% in 2004, while Aetna, Wellpoint and United Health Insurance Companies all reported earnings increases of 25% or more. *(EWeek, 11/27/2005)*

\$3.2 million to take care of an autistic person over the course of their lifetime, or \$35 billion to care for all people with autism in America.

\$91 billion to take care for all Alzheimer's patients.

\$51 billion to take care for all mental retardation patients.

\$47 billion to take care for all anxiety patients.

\$33 billion to take care for all schizophrenia patients.

*(Understanding Autism: From Basic Neuroscience to Treatment, Michael Ganz - CRC Press)*

The Government Accountability Office (a non-partisan, investigative arm of Congress) has found that the individuals manning the phones to answer caller's questions about Medicare prescription drug plans answered questions correctly only 1/3 of the time. The poor performance of the call centers results in thousands of dollars of discrepancies between the stated cost and the actual cost of prescription drugs.

### Elder Care

The average daily cost of a private room in a nursing home in South Jersey is \$256, or \$93,440/year. *(MetLife Market Survey, 2006)*

Alzheimer's affects 1 in 10 people over age 65, and nearly half of people over 85. *(Alzheimer's Association, 7/2006)*

### Doctors

"I read once how a conversation with a doctor eased a woman who'd suffered months of back pain. It turned out that the patient owned no furniture and slept on the floor. She had only one pair of shoes, and they were heels. Making good health care decisions has always been hard. As informatics teases out patients' varied health needs, it's poised to get even more complex. And doctor-patient visits are still only 10 minutes long... A trip to social services for a bed and sneakers turned out to be much cheaper, and more effective, than the assistance she'd been receiving. It took time and compassion, not RAM and ROM, to figure that one out." *(M.L. Baker, eweek.com, 10/2005)*

"The average person spends more time picking out a TV than choosing his or her doctor." *(Dan Pelino, GM of IBM's Global healthcare and life sciences industry)*

Around 100,000 deaths each year in US hospitals are thought to be due to medical error. But up to 60% of them might be avoided if doctors had instant medical histories at their fingertips. *(Bioedonloine.org, 2/2004)*

A study conducted by the University of California Los Angeles School of medicine found that doctors explain the name of the drug being prescribed 74% of the time, the purpose for taking the drug was given 87% of the time, and the side effects of taking the drug were only explained 35% of the time. *(Archives of Internal Medicine, 9/2006)*

### Avian Flu

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services estimates that the pandemic will probably reach 30% or more in the overall population. A moderate pandemic would result in 90 million sick, 865,000 landing in hospitals, and 209,000 deaths. A severe outbreak would result in 90 million sick, 9.9 million landing in a hospital, and 1.9 million would die. *(12/2006)*

## Health Coordination and Advocacy

