

Resource page from <http://MoneyedPoliticians.net>

HSAs

Health Savings Accounts and High-Deductible Health Plans: *"HSAs coupled with high-deductible health plans increase cost-consciousness among enrollees, but have little effect on overall health care costs."*
[The Bell Policy Center www.thebell.org/PUBS/IssBrf/2007/08-HSAs.php](http://www.thebell.org/PUBS/IssBrf/2007/08-HSAs.php)

No 'health savings' scams; time for single-payer is now: *"A RAND Corp. study demonstrated that when hypertensive patients had to pay part of the bill, they had a 10% higher death rate. Certainly if people die earlier we will reduce our health care costs, but that sounds too much like a Philip Morris study I once read. We can do better."*

"Even partial payment by the patient can be counter-productive, like co-pays, which usually cost more than they save. It was shown in a Kaiser Family Foundation study that mothers in low-income families will too often forego their blood pressure medicine to put food on the table, and then they have a stroke or heart attack or, worse, die. This sounds neither compassionate nor conservative."

[Jack E. Lohman www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=584662](http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=584662)

Health Care Waste

From Maggie Mahar: "With its decades of data, Dartmouth [Medical School] has exposed the incredible waste in the U.S. health-care system. Sizing up the evidence, Wennberg estimates that up to one-third of the over \$2 trillion that we now spend annually on health care is squandered on unnecessary hospitalizations; unneeded and often redundant tests; unproven treatments; over-priced, cutting-edge drugs; devices no better than the less expensive products they replaced; and end-of-life care that brings neither comfort nor cure."

See "The State of the Nation's Health" in either [html](#) or [pdf](#) form.

<http://dartmed.dartmouth.edu/spring07/html/atlas.php> and

<http://dartmed.dartmouth.edu/spring07/pdf/atlas.pdf>

So, eliminating the 31% of insurance bureaucracy systemic waste drops the legitimate costs from \$2.2 trillion to \$1.38 trillion, and cutting 33% of physician and hospital waste out of that drops to \$910 billion *what our total health care costs should really be*, a total 55% savings. Over **half** of our health care costs are wasted and dispensable! Is it any wonder that our health care costs are double everybody else's?

Costs of Health Care Administration in the United States and Canada (Steffie Woolhandler, M.D., M.P.H., Terry Campbell, M.H.A., and David U. Himmelstein, M.D.) By *New England Journal of Medicine* and www.pnhp.org = www.pnhp.org/publications/nejmadmin.pdf

"In 1999, health administration costs totaled at least \$294.3 billion in the United States, or \$1,059 per capita, as compared with \$307 per capita in Canada. After exclusions, administration accounted for **31.0 percent of health care expenditures** in the United States and 16.7 percent of health care expenditures in Canada. Canada's national health insurance program had overhead of 1.3 percent; the overhead among Canada's private insurers was higher than that in the United States (13.2 percent vs. 11.7 percent). Providers' administrative costs were far lower in Canada. Between 1969 and 1999, the share of the U.S. health care labor force accounted

for by administrative workers grew from 18.2 percent to 27.3 percent. In Canada, it grew from 16.0 percent in 1971 to 19.1 percent in 1996. (Both nations' figures exclude insurance-industry personnel.)"

Miscellaneous

Bush's False Claims About Children's Health Insurance (by [FactCheck.org](#))

President Bush gave a false description of proposed legislation to expand the 10-year-old federal program to provide health insurance for children in low-income working families.

www.factcheck.org/bushs_false_claims_about_childrens_health_insurance.html

Another "free market" phenomenon, as reported by the [New England Journal of Medicine](#), is that 94% of physicians receive some form of consulting fee or financial favors from drug and device manufacturers, and then are expected to prescribe without favoring one product's capabilities over the other. Thus the very corporations that espouse the free market are doing everything they can to subvert it, all while our politicians turn a blind eye. Beyond the issue of medical ethics, these industry costs that corrupt the system are also passed on to the patient. <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/356/17/1742>

Links:

[Canadian Doctors for Medicare](#) = www.canadiandoctorsformedicare.com

[Canadian Health Coalition](#) = www.healthcoalition.ca

[Canadian Health Services Research Foundation](#) = www.chsrf.ca/home_e.php

[Canadian "Mythbusters"](#) = www.chsrf.ca/mythbusters/index_e.php

[Healthcare-Now.org](#) = www.healthcare-now.org

[Medicare-for-all](#) = www.medicareforall.net

[Physicians for a National Health Program](#) = www.pnhp.org/single_payer_resources/pnhp_research_the_case_for_a_national_health_program.php