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## Research by Physicians for a National Health Program

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Over the past two decades, PNHP research has influenced health policy and focused debate on the need for fundamental health care reform.

- Administrative costs consume 31 percent of US health spending, most of it unnecessary.
- Medical bills contribute to half of all bankruptcies. Three-fourths of those bankrupted had health insurance at the time they got sick or injured.
- Taxes already pay for over 60 percent of US health spending. Americans pay the highest health care taxes in the world. We pay for national health insurance, but don't get it.
- Despite spending far less per capita for health care, Canadians are healthier and have better measures of access to health care than Americans.
- Business pays less than 20 percent of our nation's health bill. It is a misnomer that our health system is "privately financed" (60 percent is paid by taxes and the remaining 20 percent is out-of-pocket payments).
- For-profit, investor-owned hospitals, HMOs and nursing homes have higher costs and score lower on most measures of quality than their non-profit counterparts.
- Immigrants and emergency department visits by the uninsured are not the cause of high and rising health care costs.
- The uninsured do not receive all the medical care they need – they live sicker and die younger. Those most in need of preventive services are least likely to receive them.
- The US could save enough on administrative costs (over \$350 billion annually) with a single payer to cover all the uninsured.

*Full text and citations for each finding are available on our web site at [www.pnhp.org](http://www.pnhp.org).*