

Are We Spending **TOO MUCH** on Health Care?

BIG NUMBERS

Today, we spend
\$3.5 TRILLION
on health care in the U.S.¹

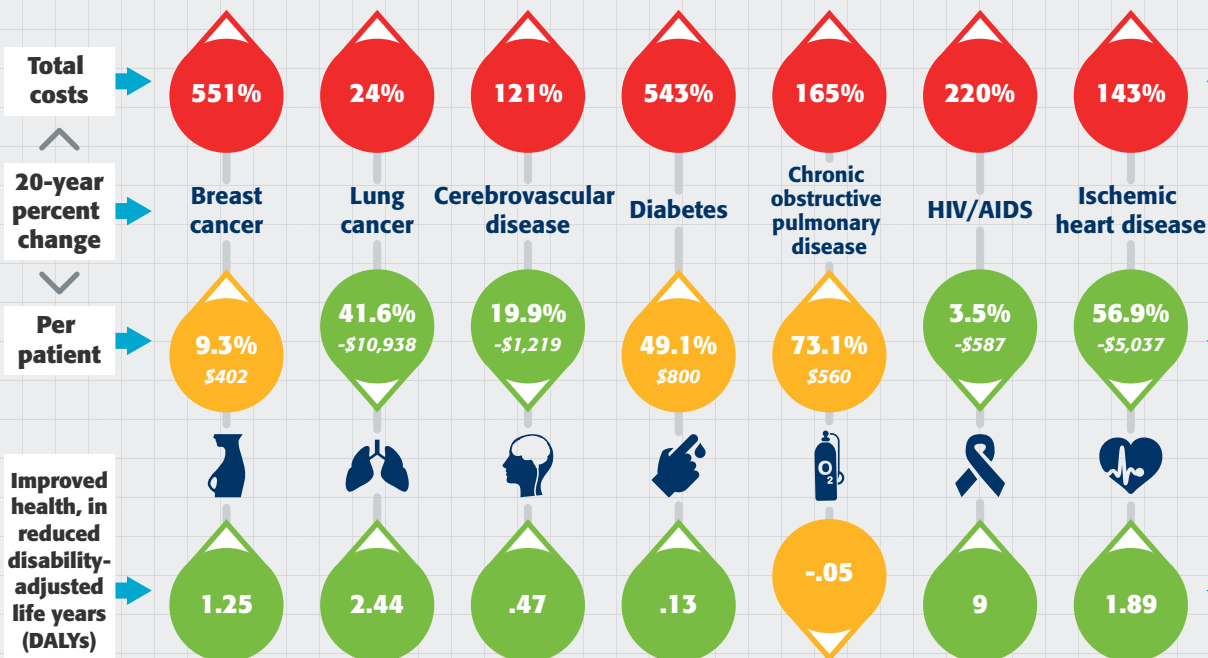


Health spending is expected to
grow by **5.5%** annually and reach
\$6 TRILLION BY 2027²

DIGGING DEEPER

Researchers analyzed³ **spending** for 7 top diseases between 1995 & 2015
and the impact on **patient health**

What did they find?










Without adjustments for **INFLATION** and **PREVALENCE** costs appear only to be **RISING**.

But with adjustments for **INFLATION** and **PREVALENCE** patient costs **FELL** in several diseases & **ROSE MODESTLY** in others.

And health spending was associated with patient health improvements in **6 of 7** conditions.

A CLEARER PICTURE

When researchers dug deeper and accounted for **INFLATION**, **PREVALENCE** and **HEALTH OUTCOMES**,* a clearer picture of health spending in top conditions emerged:

↓ Lower Spending ↑ Improved Health	↑ Higher Spending ↑ Improved Health	↑ Higher Spending ↓ Poorer Health
 Lung cancer	 Breast cancer	 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
 Cerebrovascular disease	 Diabetes	
 Ischemic heart disease		
 HIV/AIDS		

**Measured in disability-adjusted life years (DALYs)*

THE TAKEAWAY



Policies based on only aggregate health spending figures may mean the wrong areas of health spending are targeted.



Health spending data that:

- ✓ adjusts for increases in prevalence and inflation
- ✓ accounts for patient outcomes

will enable sound, disease-specific policy solutions that address health spending and improve outcomes for patients.

Go deeper on health spending by visiting GoingBelowTheSurface.org
And visit npcnow.org for more.

¹www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hblog20181206.671046/full/

²www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.05499

³www.npcnow.org/blog/study-finds-costs-dropped-outcomes-improved-major-causes-death-and-illness-between-1995-and-2014