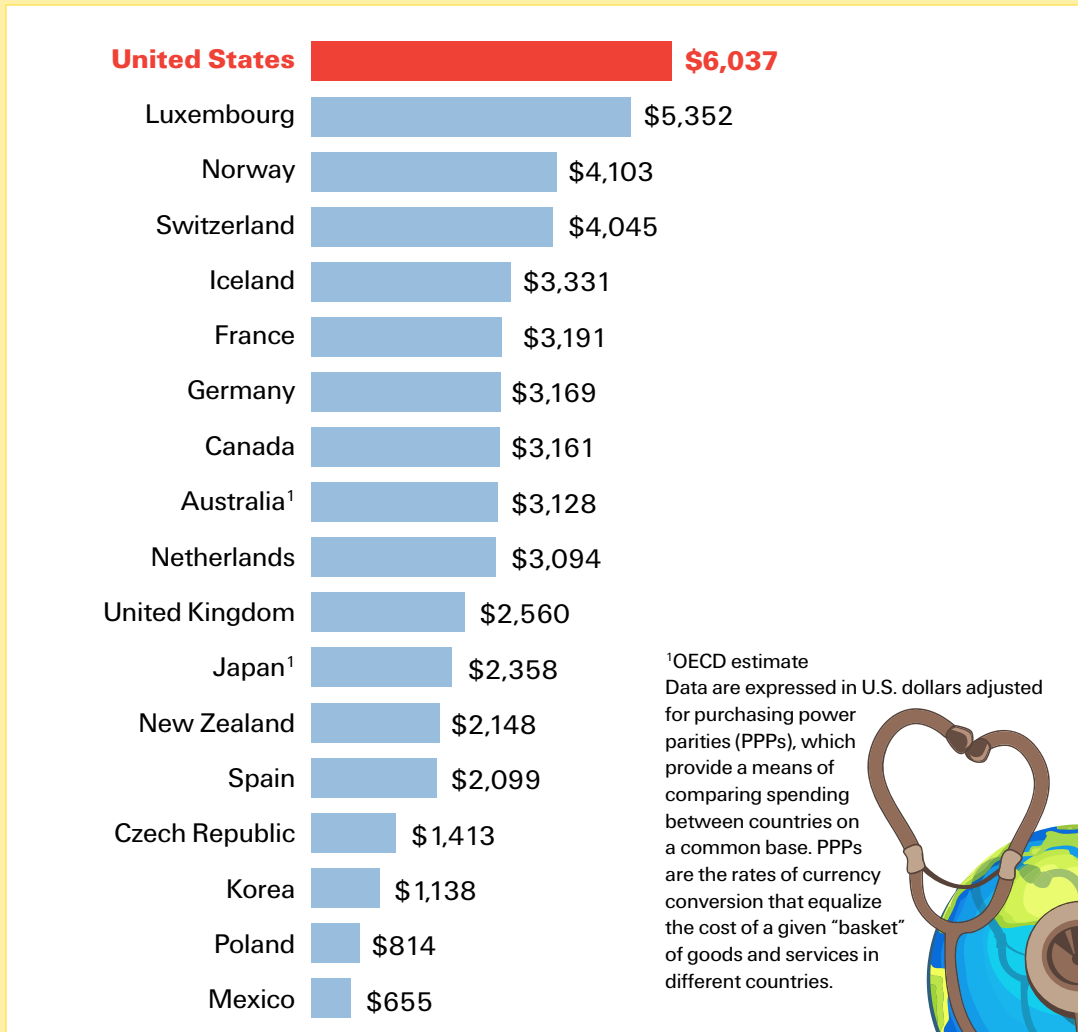


## America Spends More on Health Care Than Other Countries— But We Die Younger

The United States spends much more on health care than other countries. U.S. health care spending totaled \$2 trillion in 2005, representing 16 percent of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). Health care spending accounted for 11.6 percent of the GDP in Switzerland, 10.7 percent in Germany, 9.8 percent in Canada and 11.1 percent in France.

(Kaiser Family Foundation, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)

### Per Capita Health Spending, 2004



<sup>1</sup>OECD estimate  
Data are expressed in U.S. dollars adjusted for purchasing power parities (PPPs), which provide a means of comparing spending between countries on a common base. PPPs are the rates of currency conversion that equalize the cost of a given "basket" of goods and services in different countries.



Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

But U.S. life expectancy, at less than 78 years, ranks behind Japan, most of Europe, Jordan, Guam and the Cayman Islands. People of color in America fare worse: African American men, for example, have a life expectancy of 69.8 years, slightly longer than in Iran and Syria and slightly shorter than in Nicaragua and Morocco. The United States has a higher infant mortality rate than 40 other countries, including Cuba, Taiwan and most of Europe. (*The Washington Post*, 8/12/07)

## INFANT MORTALITY AND LIFE EXPECTANCY for Selected Countries

2005

COUNTRY	INFANT MORTALITY <sup>1</sup>
<b>United States</b>	<b>6.5</b>
United Kingdom	5.2
Canada	4.8
Switzerland	4.4
Germany	4.2
France	3.5
Japan	2.8

<sup>1</sup>Infant deaths per 1,000 live births  
U.S. Census Bureau, International Database

2005

COUNTRY	LIFE EXPECTANCY <sup>1</sup>
Japan	81.9
Switzerland	80.4
France	80.3
Canada	80.1
Germany	78.7
United Kingdom	78.4
<b>United States</b>	<b>77.7</b>

<sup>1</sup>Life expectancy at birth, in years, both sexes  
U.S. Census Bureau, International Database