

## Did You Know . . . ?

- In the U.S. in 2006 47 million were uninsured, including nearly 9 million children. Almost two-thirds of the uninsured are full-time workers or live in households with at least one full-time worker.
- 19 million full time workers and their dependents were uninsured in 2004, up from 16 million in 1999.
- Approximately 18,000 people die in the U.S. each year due to lack of insurance. Approximately 180 people died in Minnesota in 2006 due to lack of health insurance.
- When uninsured people in the U.S. are admitted to a hospital they are 20% more likely to be admitted to an intensive care unit, and in the ICU are 20% more likely to die.
- Between 2000 and 2006 the percentage of employers offering employees healthcare coverage fell from 69% to under 60%.
- The U.S. spends \$2.1 TRILLION dollars a year on health care, 16% of Gross Domestic Product. (That is one out of every 6 dollars spent in the U.S. each year). In comparison Germany spends 10.9% of GDP, France 10.5%, Norway 9.7%, and other industrialized countries even less.
- The U.S spends more per person on healthcare than any other country but our outcomes are poorer. The U.S ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in life expectancy, behind Bosnia and Jordan (2008 data). US Ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> in infant mortality rate after the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Cuba.
- Only 49% of Americans receive screening and preventive care compared to an average on 80% in other developed countries.
- In the U.S 37% of people report “rationing care” due to cost: they skip medication or recommended treatment, or decide not to see the doctor when sick.
- Between 2001 and 2005 health insurance premiums rose by 68%. Between 1999 and 2005 the amount paid for deductibles rose 500% for the average family. Between 2000 and 2007 family health insurance premiums for Minnesota workers rose 4.3 times more quickly than median earnings.
- Health care costs in the U.S have been rising at twice the rate of inflation.
- Over half of all U.S. bankruptcies are due to medical expenses. Three-quarters of those filings are by people **with** health insurance.
- Medical disruptions are a major contributor to foreclosures, often striking in combination with other factors. Half of all respondents (49%) in a recent study indicated that their foreclosure was *caused* in part by a medical problem, including illness or injuries (32%), unmanageable medical bills (23%), lost work due to a medical problem (27%), or caring for sick family members (14%).
- Only 5 states require insurers to spend at least 75% of collected premiums on providing health care, Minnesota is not one of them.
- Administrative costs account for 31% of all health care expenditures in the U.S., double the proportion of Canada (16.7 percent). Average overhead among private U.S. insurers was 11.7 percent, compared with 1.3 percent for Canada’s single-payer system and 3.6 percent for Medicare.
- The U.S. Conference of Mayors, a nonpartisan organization of 1,100 mayors representing cities with populations over 30,000, met in Miami June 20-24<sup>th</sup> 2008. The assembly of mayors, in a unanimous vote, backed a resolution in support of single-payer national health insurance.
- Canada’s single-payer system did not come into being all at once on the national level, but a province at a time.
- In 2007 fifty-nine percent of U.S. physicians surveyed support national health insurance (single-payer), a 10% increase since 2002. 64% of MN physicians support single-payer. More physicians support single-payer than incremental reforms.
- A January, 2008 AP-Yahoo poll revealed that 65% of Americans said yes to the statement: "The United States should adopt a universal health insurance program in which everyone is covered under a program like Medicare that is run by the government and financed by taxpayers."