

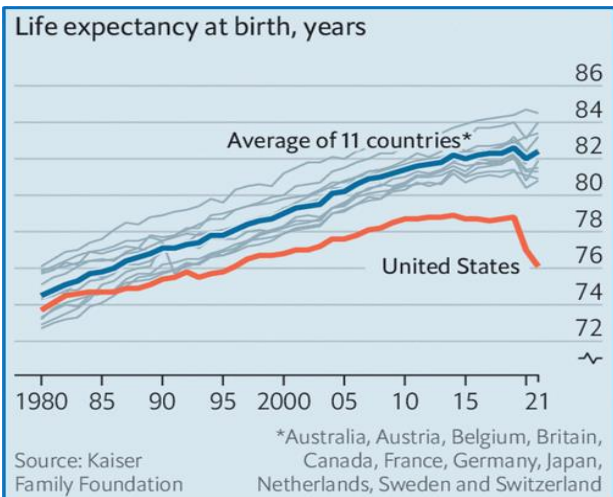
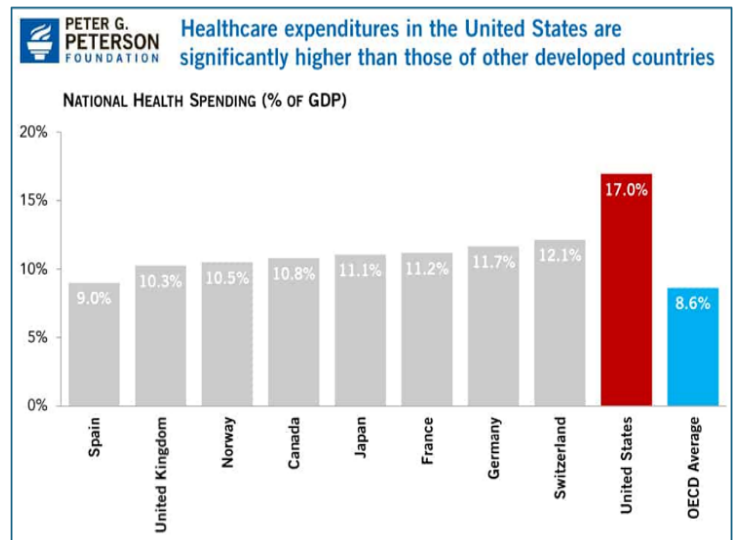
ABOUT HEALTHCARE...

"As too many Americans know, access to quality, affordable health care can mean the difference between life and death, and hope and fear. That's why I will continue fighting to bring down health care and prescription drug costs." President Biden

UNDER BIDEN

President Biden has prioritized making American healthcare more accessible, affordable, and effective.

- **Affordable Health Insurance:** More than 40 million Americans have coverage under the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA) – an all-time high. Since 2022, states using HealthCare.gov have seen a 50% rise in enrollments. Today, 8% of Americans still remain uninsured, but in Texas, 18% lack coverage due in part to the state's refusal to expand Medicaid despite free federal funds.
- **Cost Savings:** Under ACA, millions of American families are saving thousands of dollars each year in health insurance premiums. Without insurance, costs would be orders-of-magnitude higher. In fact, medical debt is the leading cause of personal bankruptcy in the U.S.
- **Drug Costs and Vaccines:** Medicare drug costs are capped at \$2,000 per year. Medicare can now negotiate lower drug prices. For example, insulin is capped at \$35/month; vaccines are free for Medicare seniors.



- **COVID:** The Biden Administration successfully rolled-out the CDC program to administer and track COVID vaccines and vaccinations. Over 740 million free COVID-19 tests were sent to tens of millions of Americans.
- a. **Cancer:** Included funding for childhood cancer research in his FY2024 budget. Requested \$48.3 billion for NIH research, including \$7.8 billion for the National Cancer Institute.
- **Hearing Aids:** Lowered costs by making them available over-the-counter.
- **Veterans' PACT ACT:** Much-needed aid for Vets sickened by toxic burn pits.

IF BIDEN IS RE-ELECTED

Biden's second term will focus on expanding past healthcare gains and offering a "Medicare-for-All" public option – a plan supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans.

- **Strengthening the ACA:** President Biden will continue to improve access to life-saving healthcare. He will strengthen the ACA by increasing coverage options and expanding subsidies to make health insurance through the ACA marketplace more affordable. His goal is to insure more than 97% of Americans, focusing on providing coverage for those currently without insurance.
- **Expanding Health Options:** Another goal is to give Americans the freedom to choose a public health insurance option similar to Medicare. This "Public Option" would provide an affordable, government-run insurance alternative for individuals, families, and those who are currently uninsured or underinsured. A special focus is to cover Americans who don't qualify for Medicaid yet are priced out of expensive for-profit private insurance.

- **Further Reducing Prescription Drug Costs:** A key initiative involves tackling high prescription drug prices. This includes expanding Medicare's ability to negotiate drug prices, capping out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors, and limiting price increases for all brand, biotech, and abusively priced generic drugs.
- **Mental Health and Substance Use:** Addressing long-neglected mental health issues will also be a focus of the Biden Administration, with efforts to integrate mental health care with primary care. This would be leveraged with expanded coverage for mental health services, including support for substance use disorders.
- **Healthcare Workforce and Infrastructure:** To ensure improved access to quality healthcare services, efforts are needed to bolster the healthcare workforce, and strengthen healthcare facilities such as hospitals in rural and other under-served areas. Also needed are affordable options for Americans to age in their own homes instead of being forced into expensive care centers.
- **COVID-19 Response:** Ongoing management of and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic remains a priority, with continued focus on vaccine distribution, long COVID, and other persistent impacts of the pandemic.

HEALTHCARE UNDER TRUMP 2016-2000

- In May 2018, **Trump dismantled President Obama's Pandemic Response Unit**, frustrating efforts to detect and respond to COVID-19 a year later. First detected in China in December 2019, the pandemic could have been immediately addressed, saving countless lives. Instead, in March 2020 Trump urged Americans to "*Just stay calm. It will go away.*" That same month, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic. When Trump (reluctantly) left office in January 2021, the U.S. had 25 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and over 400,000 deaths.
- Along with pushing for **the full repeal of the Affordable Care Act**, Trump also took administrative actions that caused people to lose coverage or made coverage less comprehensive or less affordable. Between 2016 and 2019, the number of people without health insurance coverage rose by 2.3 million, including over 700,000 children.
- The Trump Administration pressed States to **add burdensome paperwork requirements** and unnecessary complexity to their systems for verifying Medicaid coverage. This caused many Americans — among them eligible children with complex health care needs — to lose coverage and forgo needed care, with some states seeing large Medicaid enrollment declines for both children and adults.
- The Trump Administration gave states **unprecedented authority to require people in poverty to pay premiums** for their Medicaid coverage.
- Trump **eliminated funding for Planned Parenthood and other facilities** that provide or even mention abortion services. As a result, tens of millions of women have lost access to routine cancer screening and other vital health services.

IF TRUMP IS RE-ELECTED

Neither Trump nor the Republican Party has laid-out any specific policy proposals for a second Trump term. Given this, Trump's past actions and on-going campaign rhetoric suggest that he would resume efforts to undermine ACA, reduce Medicaid funding, restrict access to abortion and family planning, and scale-back benefits for immigrants.

- Trump promises to **repeal the Affordable Care Act** which covers 40 million Americans, and roll-back Medicare's ability to negotiate with drug companies over high-priced drugs.
- Trump will **privatize Medicare** by funneling new seniors into for-profit (and fraud-riddled) "Medicare Advantage" plans. These plans, run by private insurance companies, often recruit seniors using deceptive and aggressive marketing. To increase profits, they limit doctor's visits, deny care, and overbill US taxpayers.
- Trump appointed three **anti-abortion Justices to the Supreme Court**, directly resulting in the demise of *Roe v Wade*. If re-elected, Trump has indicated that he would: (1) direct the FDA to withdraw approval of mifepristone and misoprostol (abortion-inducing drugs); (2) support a federal law prohibiting the mailing of medicines that induce an abortion; and (3) force public messaging to emphasize fertility awareness methods of contraception.

"For 54 years they were trying to get Roe v Wade terminated and I did it and I'm proud to have done it." Donald Trump