

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
 Department of Philosophy

Myth Busters
 or: Why You People are Crazy


MARK GREENE
 Department of Philosophy
 University of Delaware

mkgreene@udel.edu
www.vole.org

Are you people crazy?

- Healthcare costs
 - \$7,290 each
 - Holy cow!
- Results
 - \$2.2 trillion & all I got was 47 million uninsured & a malpractice suit.

2007 figures: OECD (2009)



2007 expenditures

- Per capita \$ @ PPP

USA	\$7,290
Canada	\$3,895
UK	\$2,992
- % of GDP

USA	16%
Canada	10.1%
UK	8.4%

2007 figures: OECD (2009).
www.oecd.org



What does that mean?

- GDP: Gross Domestic Product
 - Official economic activity
 - Excluding
 - Foreign investment
 - Black market
 - Unpaid work

- Converting \$ £ ¥ €
 - Market rates
 - Price to buy/sell
 - Big Mac Index
 - Keeps a Big Mac costing the same
 - PPP: Purchasing Power Parity
 - Glorified Big Mac index

Myth Busters I: "But you pay far higher taxes"

• % of total expenditures	
USA	45.4%
Canada	70%
UK	81.7%
• % of GDP	
USA	7.3%
Canada	7.1%
UK	6.9%
• Per capita (USD @PPP)	
USA	\$3,310
Canada	\$2,727
UK	\$2,444

2007 figures: OECD (2009)


Public expenditures, 2007

Health Expenditure. %GDP, 2006

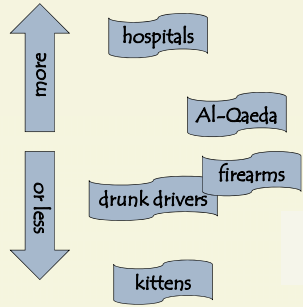
2007 figures: OECD (2009)

Myth busters II:
"We have the best healthcare in the world"

- Not so much
 - Impressive R&D
 - Lackluster results
 - 47 million uninsured
- So maybe...



More or less... what?



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
 Department of Philosophy

Mark Greene
 mkgreene@udel.edu

Philosophy gives the means to speak with apparent authority on all matters, and to make oneself admired by the less learned; while law, medicine and the other sciences bring honor and riches upon their practitioners.

- Rene Descartes, Discourse on Method

