



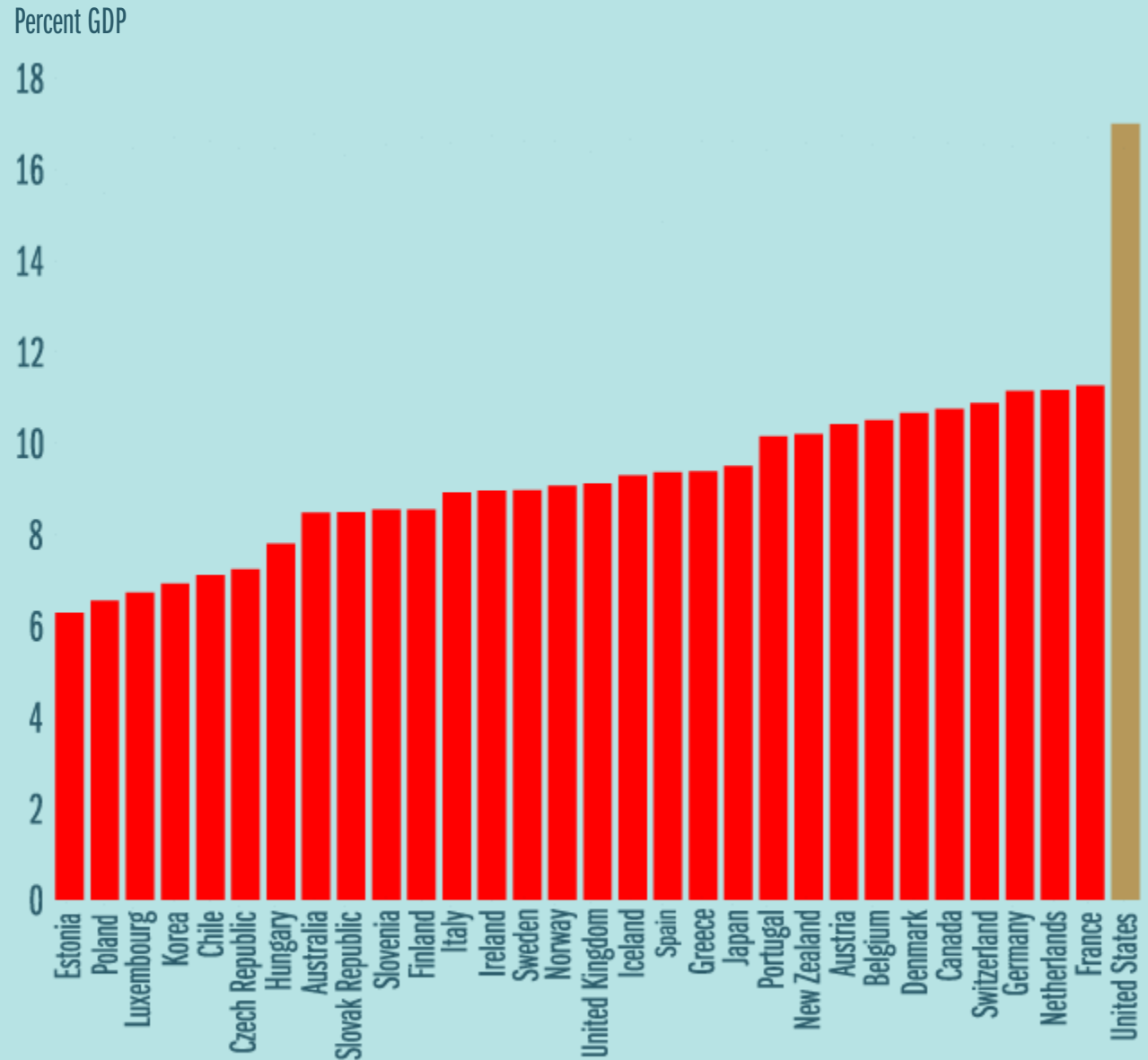
U.S. HEALTH CARE COSTS

The US spends

17%

of its gross domestic product on health care.

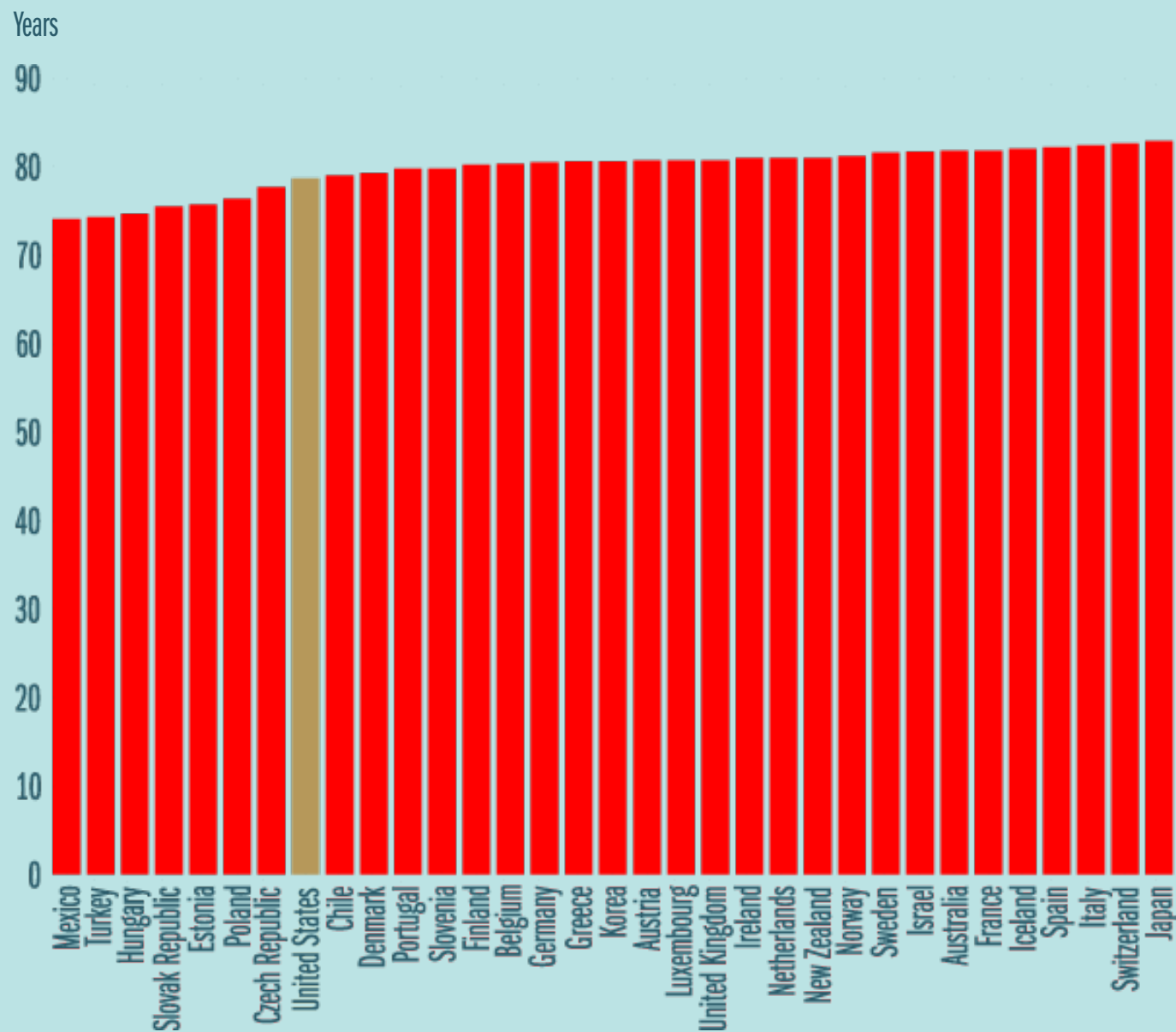
That's A LOT more than other developed countries.



WHY?

Maybe US citizens live longer?

The US is actually pretty far from the top in terms of life expectancy.



Well, US citizens are more unhealthy, right?

There is more obesity in the US, of course, but less alcohol and tobacco consumption actually.

Only

1%

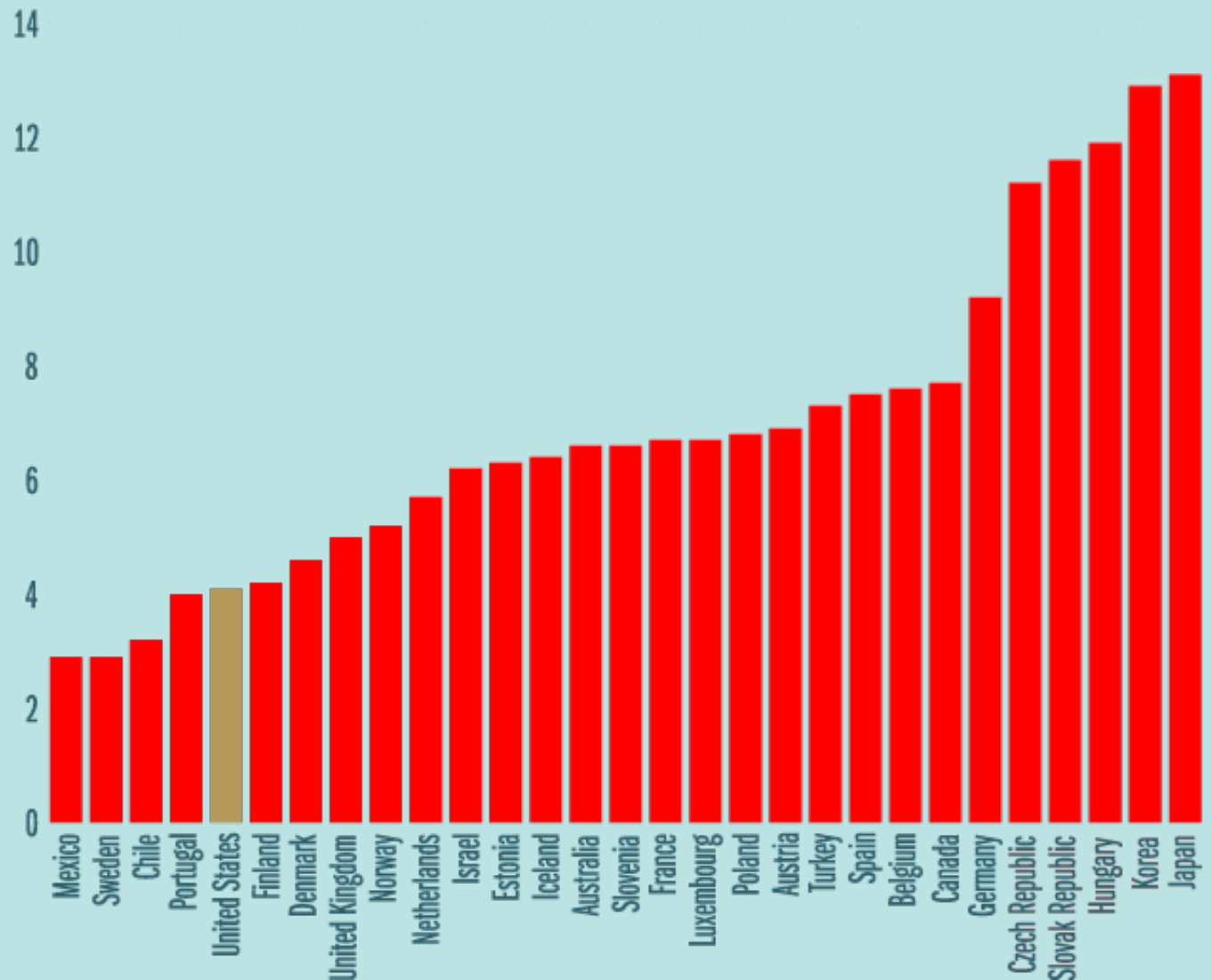
of total US health care cost goes towards disease related spending

In fact, it would seem people in the US don't like going to see the doctor very much:

4 doctor's visits per year.

Compared to other countries this is very low.

Number of visits per capita



What about defensive medicine costs?

Afraid of mal-practice suits, doctors order many unnecessary tests every year to make sure they don't get sued. This is called defensive medicine.

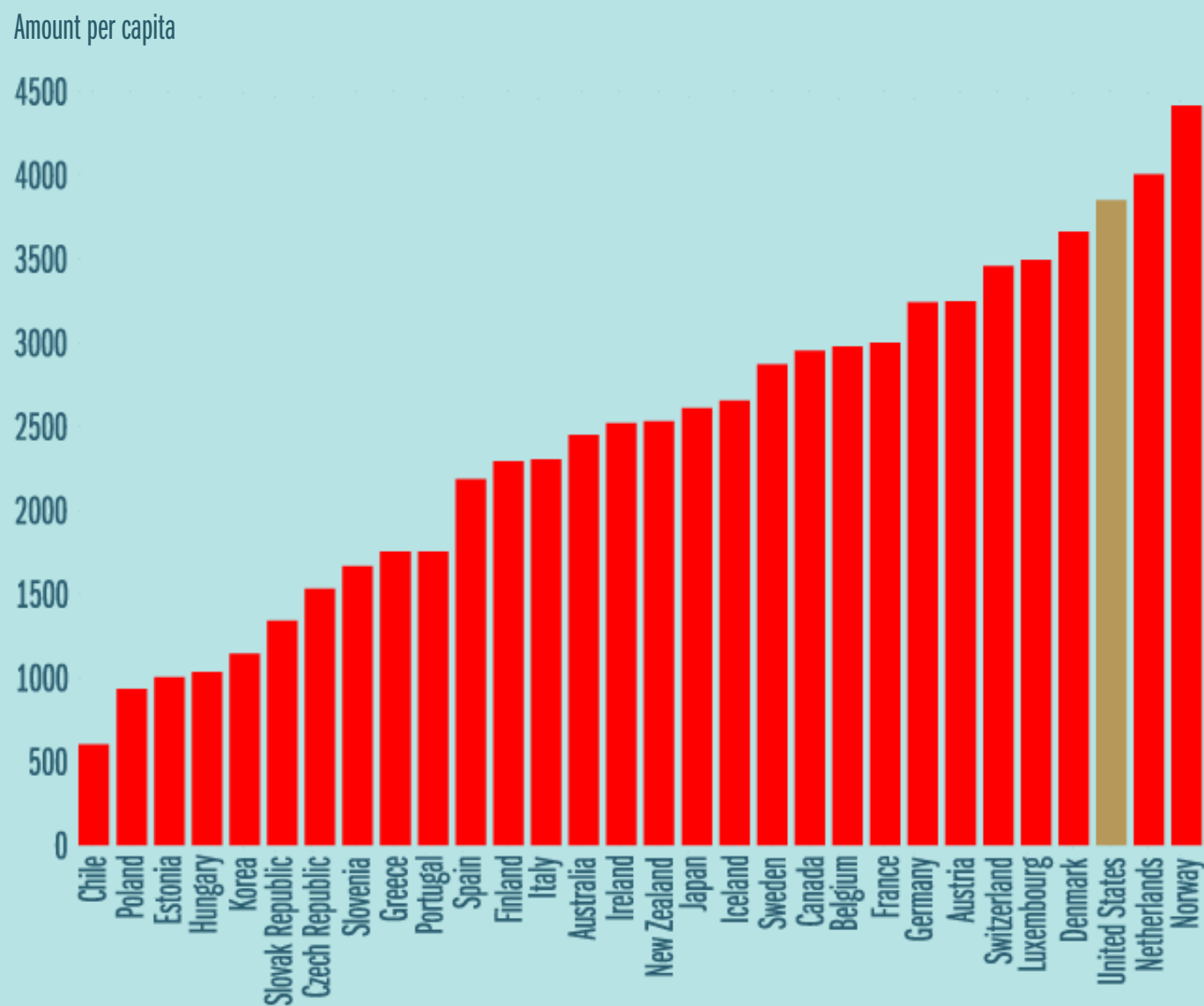
Only

3%

of total US health care cost goes towards defensive medicine and mal-practice litigation combined

Taxes in the US are less though... right??

The US is actually near the top in amount of government money spent on health care.



Is there anything that sets the US apart?

The US is the **ONLY** country that
relies on a primarily **FOR-PROFIT**
system, without regulation.

From 1975 - 2008

FOR-PROFIT

hospitals increased by:

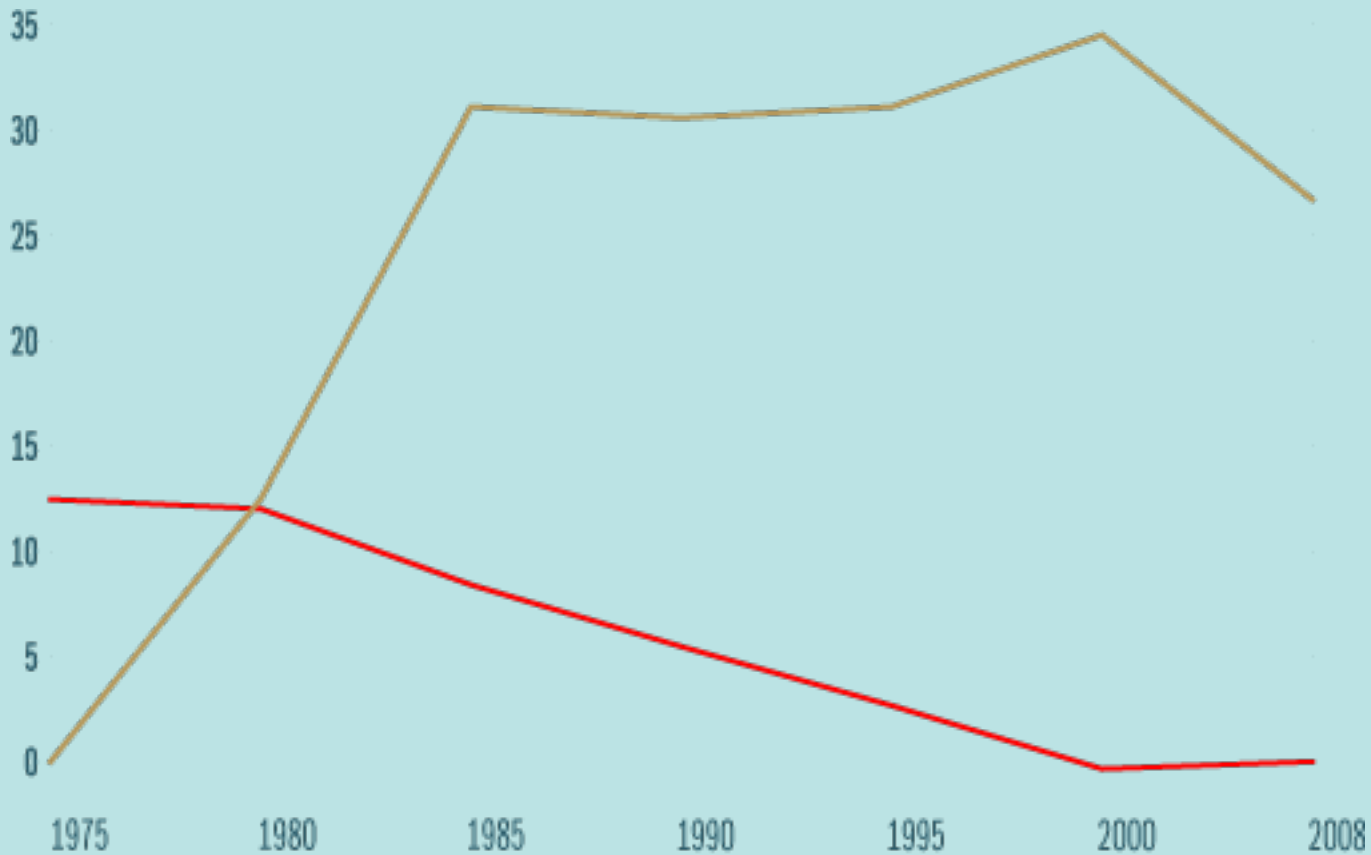
27%

NON-PROFIT

hospitals decreased by:

13%

Percentage changed



In a mainly for-profit, non-regulated, health care system, providers can charge whatever they want. Prices become extremely inflated and purchasers will pay, since they need health care.

This is the current state in the US.

Other countries have either a completely non-profit health care system, or a mixture of non-profit and heavily regulated for-profit systems.

The situation is hard to change. Blue Cross/Blue Shield is one of the top 3 lobbyists in the US, paying millions of dollars to politicians.

All data from the

OECD (ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT)

except for the hospital data, which came from the

AHA (AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION)

via the

CDC (Center for Disease Control)