

Canadian Health Coalition

PHARMACARE INDEX

Total spending on prescription drugs in Canada in 2009: **\$25.4 billion**

Number of Canadians who are not insured or underinsured for prescription drugs: **8 million**

Annual increase in prescription drug costs in Canada since 1985: **10.1%**

Increase in drug share of total health spending from 1985-2009: **72.6%**

Merck's profits on \$27 billion worth of revenues in 2009: **\$12.9 billion**

Annual increase in the prescription drug component of employer health plans: **15.8%**

Percentage above the OECD average that Canadians pay for brand-name drugs: **31%**

Potential annual savings with a universal public drug plan with first-dollar coverage: **\$10.7 billion**

Percentage of pharmaceutical industry R&D spending funded through public tax subsidies: **59%**

Savings from eliminating tax subsidies and extra administrative costs of private drug insurance: **\$1.44 billion**

Savings from a rigorous national drug assessment process like the one in B.C.: **\$2 billion**

Percentage of prescription drug spending financed by private sector in 2009: **55%**

Amount of prescription drug costs in Canada covered by the federal government: **2.7%**

Amount spent by Merck in 2000 on direct to consumer advertising for Vioxx (U.S.): **\$160 million**

Number of extra patients (U.S.) that experienced heart attacks from Vioxx use: **88,000 to 139,000**

Estimated number of lives saved by B.C. Pharmacare's decision to not pay for Vioxx: **300 to 400**

Average amount spent on each doctor on drug promotion by the pharmaceutical industry in US: **\$61,000**

Estimated amount spent by the pharmaceutical industry in Canada on promotion in 2004: **\$2.1 billion**

Increase in hospitalization rates after Quebec introduced co-payment on welfare recipients for essential drugs: **194%**

www.PharmacareNow.ca

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information (1, 3, 4, 12, 13); Gagnon, M.A., *The Economic Case for Universal Pharmacare*, CCPA: 2010 (2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 19); Buck Consultants, *Canadian Health Care Trend Survey Results 2010* (6); *Précrire International*, April 2010 (10, 11); *Fortune* 2010 (5, 14); *Lancet*, (9458) 2005 (15); Gagnon M-A, Lexchin J (2008) *PLoS Med* 5.1(17); PMPRB (18); Tamblyn et al, *JAMA* 285 (19).