

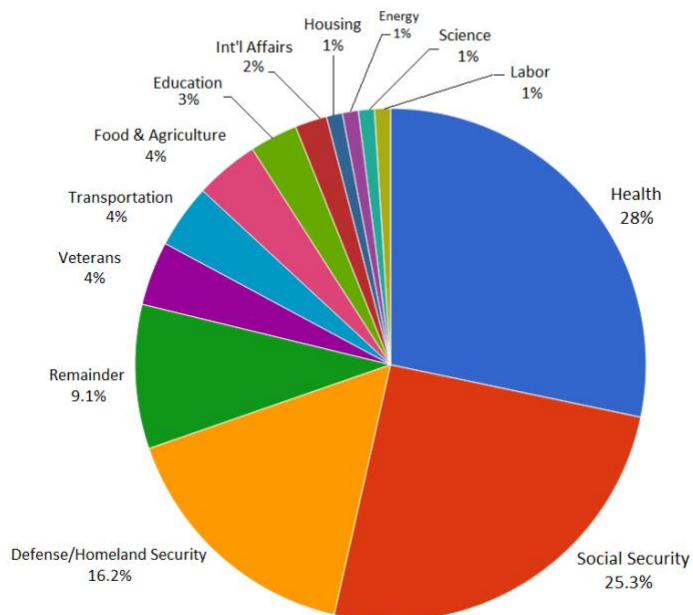
How much do we spend on health care? How many dollars are spent on health care in the U.S. per person?

In [2016](#), the U.S. health care system cost \$3.3 trillion, or \$10,348 per person. This sum is [17.9%](#) of the gross domestic product —more than double the percentage it was in 1975.

How does health care spending compare to spending in other areas of the economy?

[Health care accounts for about 28% of the federal budget](#), much more than other areas of the economy: more than defense; more than social security. This figure doesn't include private spending on health care, both by individuals and employers, which totaled [\\$1.8 trillion in 2016](#).

Percent of spending, including discretionary and mandatory



Many people think that the U.S. spends a large amount of its budget on “welfare” programs, when in fact, they are a minuscule part of total:

- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), formerly known as welfare, was less than 1% of federal spending in 2015.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, was about 2% of federal outlays in 2015.

In the past 40 years, how much has health care spending grown in the U.S. and elsewhere?

In 1970, [health care spending in the U.S., both private and public](#), was \$75 billion, and in line with the rest of the developed world. However since then it has continued to grow, reaching \$1.4 trillion in 2000, and \$3.3 trillion in 2017, far outpacing costs in other economically developed countries.