

# Canadian Health Coalition

## DRUG INDEX

Total spending on prescription drugs in Canada in 2006: \$21 billion

Increase in prescription drug costs in Canada between 1994 and 2006: 77.4%

Percentage of new, more expensive drugs (1996-2006) that offer major therapeutic innovation in an area where none existed previously: 0.2%

Amount of prescription drug costs in Canada covered by the federal government: 2.9%

Number of drug prescriptions filled in Canadian pharmacies in 2006: 422.6 million

Number of prescriptions per capita in Canada in 2006: 12.6

Canadian per capita drug expenditure in 2004: \$699

Pfizer's profit on \$48 billion worth of business in 2002: \$9.1 billion

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

Adverse drug reactions as ranked among the leading cause of death in Canada: between 4th and 7th

Number of sales representatives for pharmaceutical companies in the U.S. alone in 2005: 100,000

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

Estimated increase in total antidepressant drug costs (mostly SSRIs) from 1993 to 2000: 347%

Scientists at the U.S. FDA who lack confidence in their agency's ability to monitor drug safety: 2 in 3

Percentage of 2003 budget for Health Canada's drug approval agency that comes from the drug industry: 56%

Percentage of the Canadian population that have 100 % coverage for drug expenses: under 10

Number of Canadians who are either uninsured or underinsured for drugs: 3.5 million

Number of Canadians that have some type of protective cap on out-of-pocket drug expenses: 1/3

Annual increase in employer health benefit premiums: 15%

Annual administrative costs of the private drug insurance system in Canada: \$670 to \$800 million

Estimated annual savings for Canadians if governments negotiated bulk-buying discounts: \$2 billion

[www.medicare.ca](http://www.medicare.ca)

**Sources:** Canadian Institute for Health Information (1, 2, 4); Prescrire International 2007 (3); PMPRB (13); IMS Canada (5, 6, 7); Fortune 2003 (8, 9); Lancet, (9458) 2005 (10); CMAJ, 161-3, 1999 (11); Forbes, May 8, 2005 (12); Currie, J., Women & Health Protection, 2005 (14); Harper's Index, March 2005; (15); Health Canada, 2003 (16); Applied Management & Fraser Group Tristat, 2000 (17, 19); F/P/T Ministerial Task Force 2006 (18); Huty, S. 2002, Third Party Issues (20); Palmer D'Angelo, 1997 (21); Morgan, S., Healthcare Policy, 2007 (22).

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