



# THE DOLLARS AND SENSE OF CHRONIC DISEASE

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **nearly 1 out of every 2 Americans suffers from a chronic disease**, defined as a noncommunicable disease (NCD) prolonged in duration, including cancer, heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Chronic diseases are the number one cause of death in the U.S.

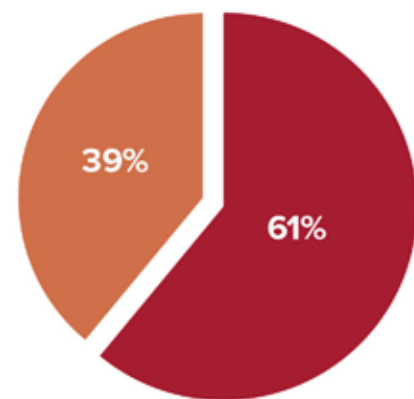
## Unhealthy Habits

The most common behaviors that lead to chronic diseases are:



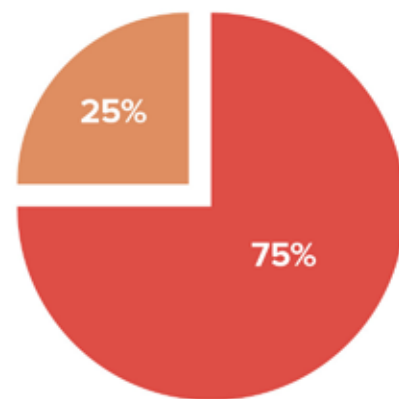
The World Health Organization estimates that **80 percent of all heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes**, as well as more than **40 percent of cancer**, would be prevented if Americans would stop using tobacco, eat healthy, and exercise.

### Causes of Death Worldwide



■ Noncommunicable Diseases  
■ Injuries, Infections, and Other Conditions (includes communicable diseases, maternal and perinatal conditions, and nutritional deficiencies)

### U.S. Health Care Costs



■ Noncommunicable Diseases  
■ Other

**“Investing in health is not only the right thing to do on ethical grounds but it is also the smart thing to do in order to achieve economic prosperity... Good health is not only a consequence of, but a condition for, sustained and sustainable economic growth.”**

—Julio Frenk, Dean, Harvard School of Public Health

## Noncommunicable Diseases: Comparing the Economic Toll

The projected global economic toll of noncommunicable diseases—chiefly cancer, mental health disorders, and cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases—over the next two decades is \$47 trillion.

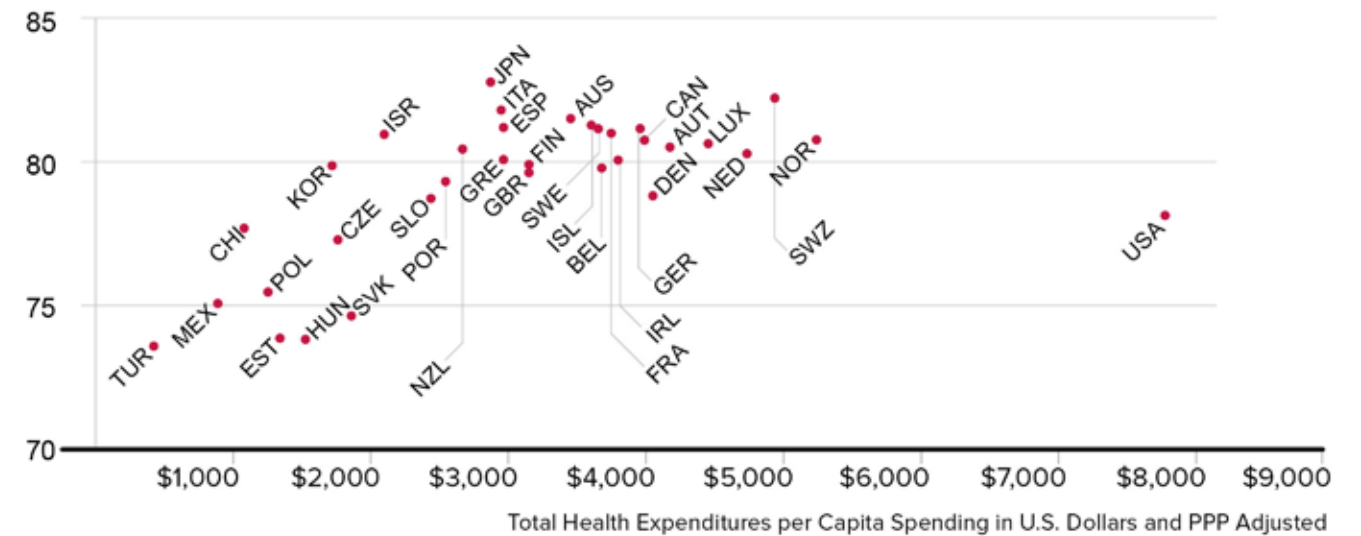
**\$47 TRILLION**

**\$15 TRILLION** U.S. national debt (as of July 1, 2012).

**\$250 BILLION** Economic losses from Hurricane Katrina.

## How Much Health Do We Get for Our Money?

Life Expectancy, by Country



According to General Motors, **employee health care costs add between \$1,500 and \$2,000** to the sticker price of every car the company makes.

## Dollars and Diseases

In the U.S. alone, a 10% reduction in mortality from heart disease, cancer, and diabetes would have a total social value, expressed in economic terms, of

**\$10.9 TRILLION**

The U.S. spends **\$2.5 trillion on health care** every year.

**\$8,086**

is spent on medical care per person per year.

Only **\$251** is spent per person on public health measures that prevent medical conditions *before they occur*.

Sources include: "The Global Economic Burden of Noncommunicable Diseases" World Economic Forum, 2011; "Health Care Costs & U.S. Competitiveness" Council on Foreign Relations, 2012; "An Unhealthy Truth: Rising Rates of Chronic Disease and the Future of Health in America" Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease, 2007; and "Chronic Diseases: The Power to Prevent, The Call to Control" Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, 2009. For a complete list of sources, please visit: [hsph.me/infosources](http://hsph.me/infosources)

