

09.30.2014 | METHODS

How do U.S. health care resources compare to other countries?

Data on health care resources were obtained from the health care resources and the health care utilization files in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Health Statistics database. OECD data were accessed on September 10 and 15, 2014. Additional data were obtained from the World Health Organization Global Health Observatory database in September, 2014.

Comparable countries for comparison were identified based on economic similarity because national health spending strongly correlates with GDP. Comparable countries met the following criteria:

- Above median total GDP among all OECD countries
- Above median GDP per capita among all OECD countries for at least 1 of the past 10 years

The comparable country averages were calculated using the simple (unweighted) average of comparable OECD countries (not including the U.S.), for which data are available.