

01.07.2015 | METHODS

# How U.S. healthcare prices and use compare to other countries?

Data on health care use were obtained from the health care utilisation and the health care resources files in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Health Statistics database. OECD data were accessed on September 10, October 29, and December 16, 2014. Data on healthcare prices were obtained from the [International Federation of Health Plans, “2013 Comparative Price Report, Variation in Medical and Hospital Prices by Country”](#).

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 for at least 1 of the past 10 years
- 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.