

Ageing and Health Policy: The Value of International Comparisons and the Potential of Surveys

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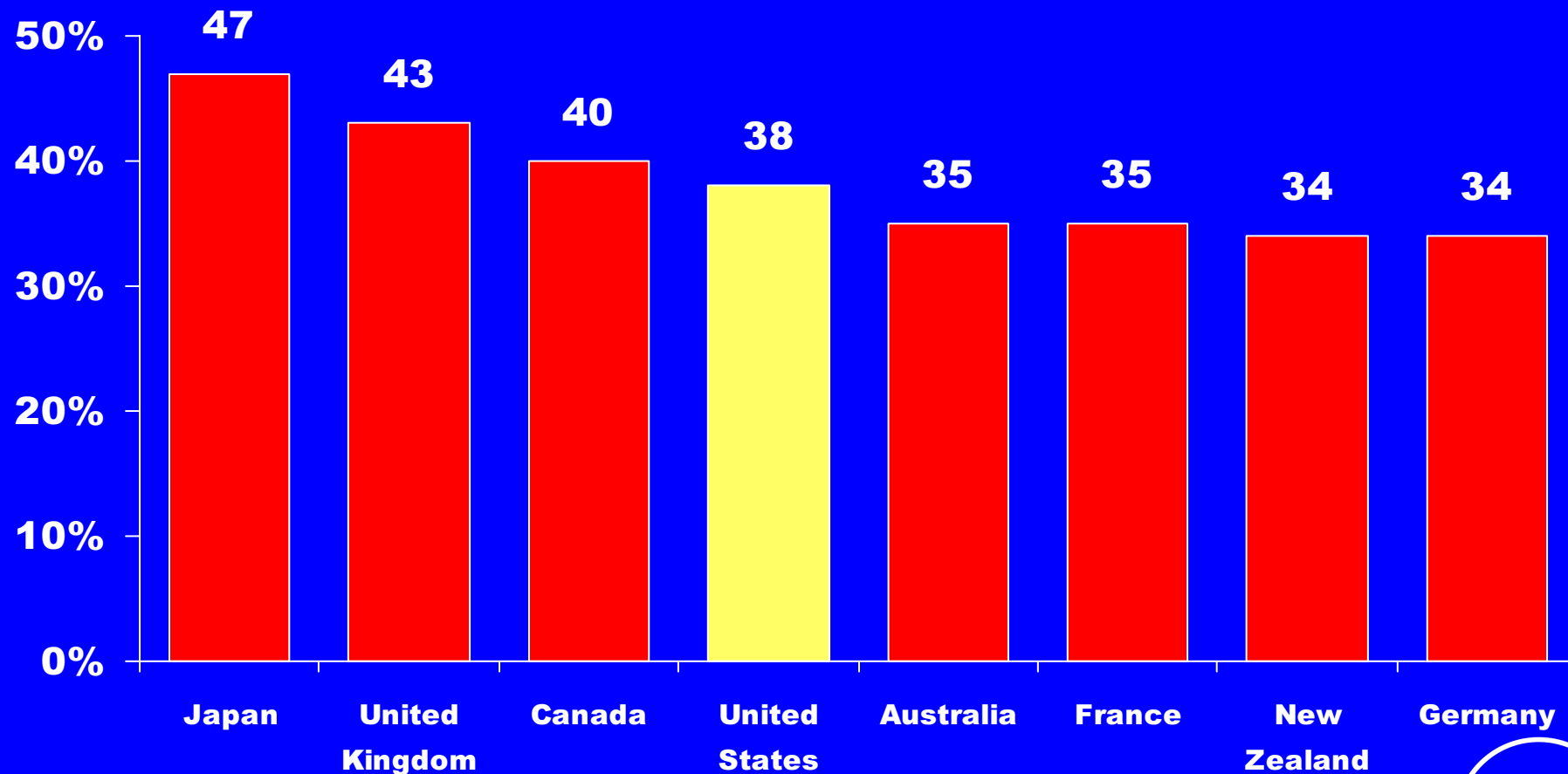
International Health Policy Perspectives and the Potential of Surveys

- **Demography is not destiny: Policy Matters**
- **Quality of Life: Surveys and Patient Perspectives**
 - **Access and system responsiveness**
 - **Equity and economic burden**
- **Lessons from the U.S. on the risks and limits of Cost sharing as Cost Controls**
- **Long term care: Policy challenge of supporting care givers and home care**



One-third to One-half of Total Health Spending is for Elderly People

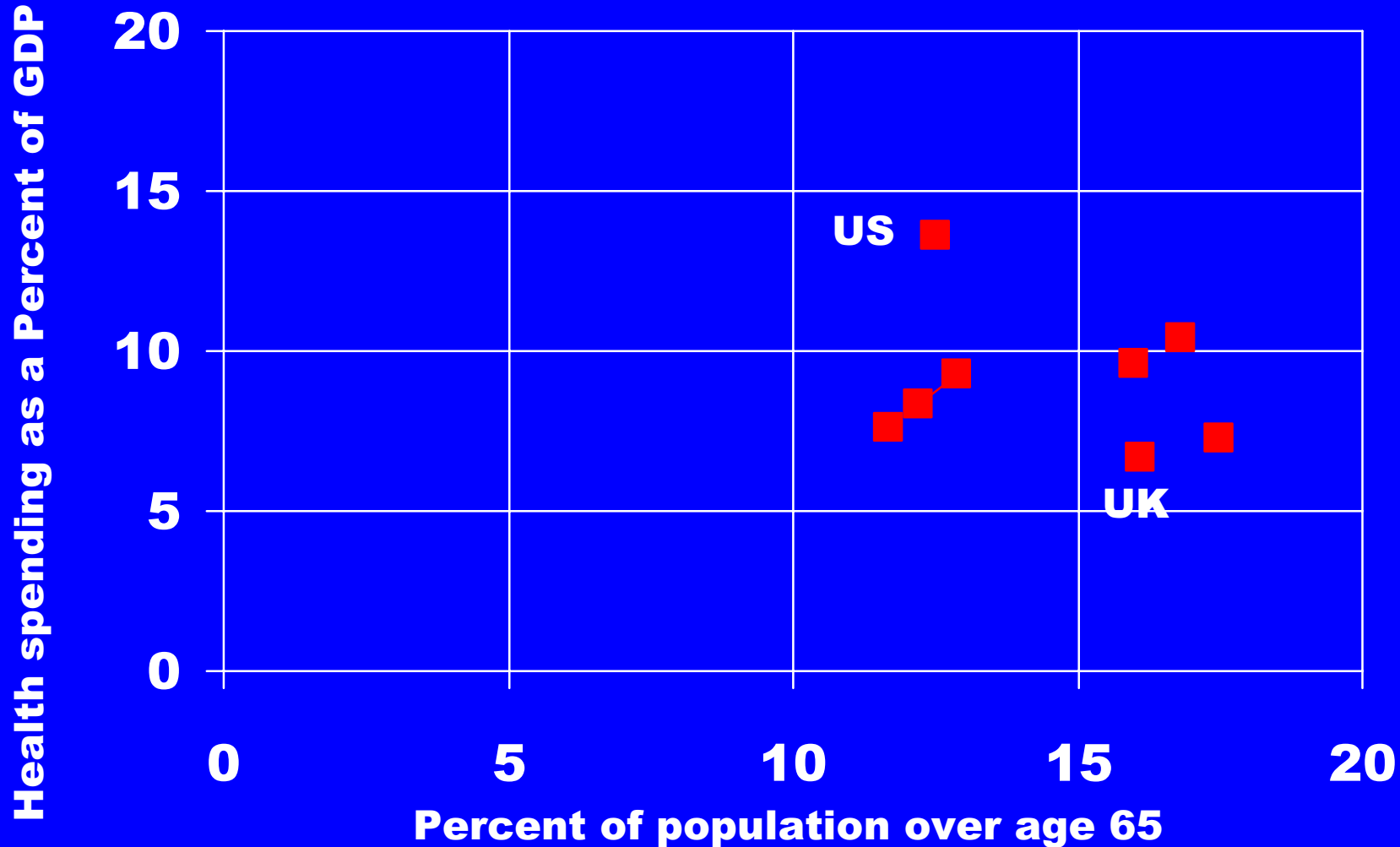
Percentage of total health expenditures for people age 65+, 1997



Source: Anderson and Hussey, *Health and Population Aging: A Multinational Comparison*, The Commonwealth Fund, October 1999. Data source: OECD.



No Necessary Link Between High Health Spending and a Large Elderly Population

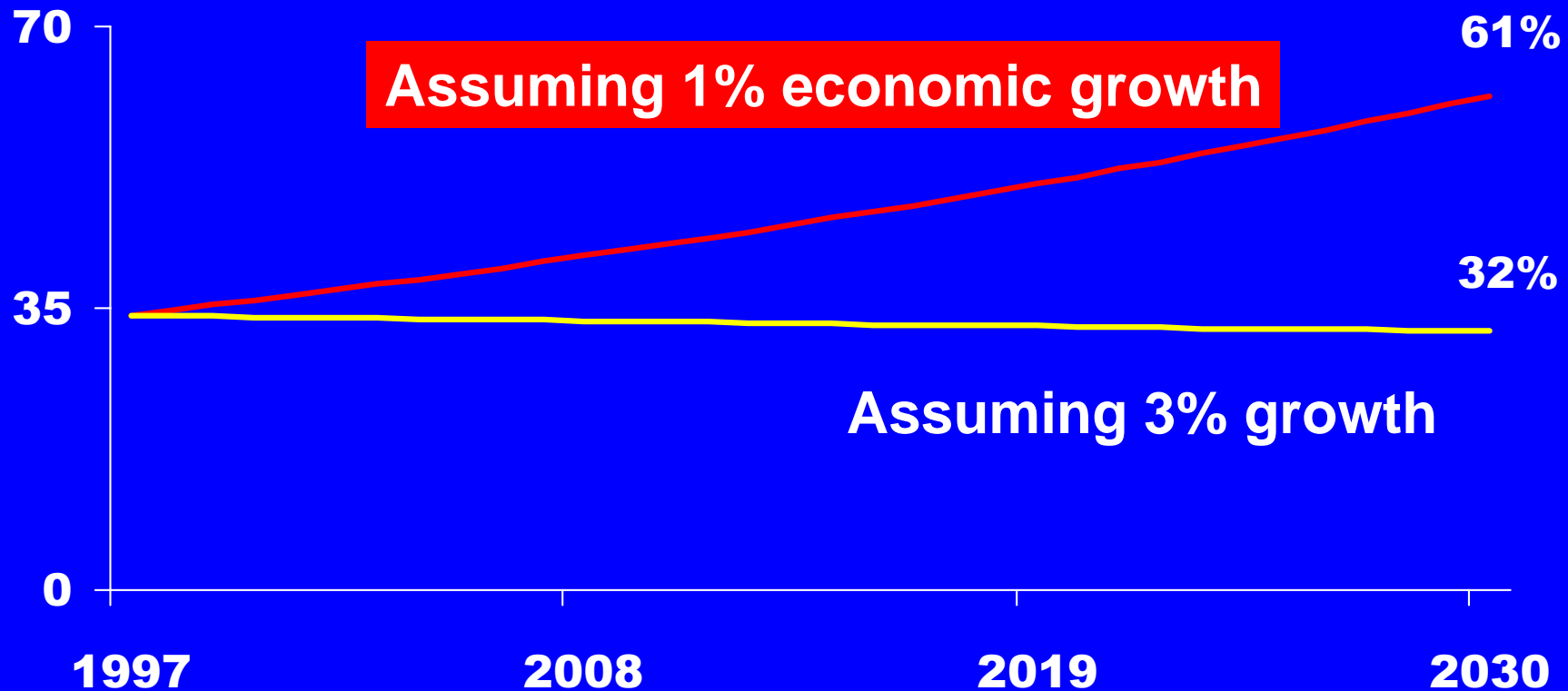


Source: G. Anderson and P. Hussey, *Health and Population Aging: A Multinational Comparison*, Commonwealth fund, October 1999.



U.S. Projected Percent of Spending Care and Support Costs Highly Sensitive to Future Rates of Economic Growth

Total U.S. government expenditures as a percent of GDP



Source: Friedland and Summer, *Demography is Not Destiny*, National Academy on an Aging Society, Gerontological Society of America, January 1999.



Financial Difficulties: The Elderly Are Relatively Well-Protected from Medical Costs

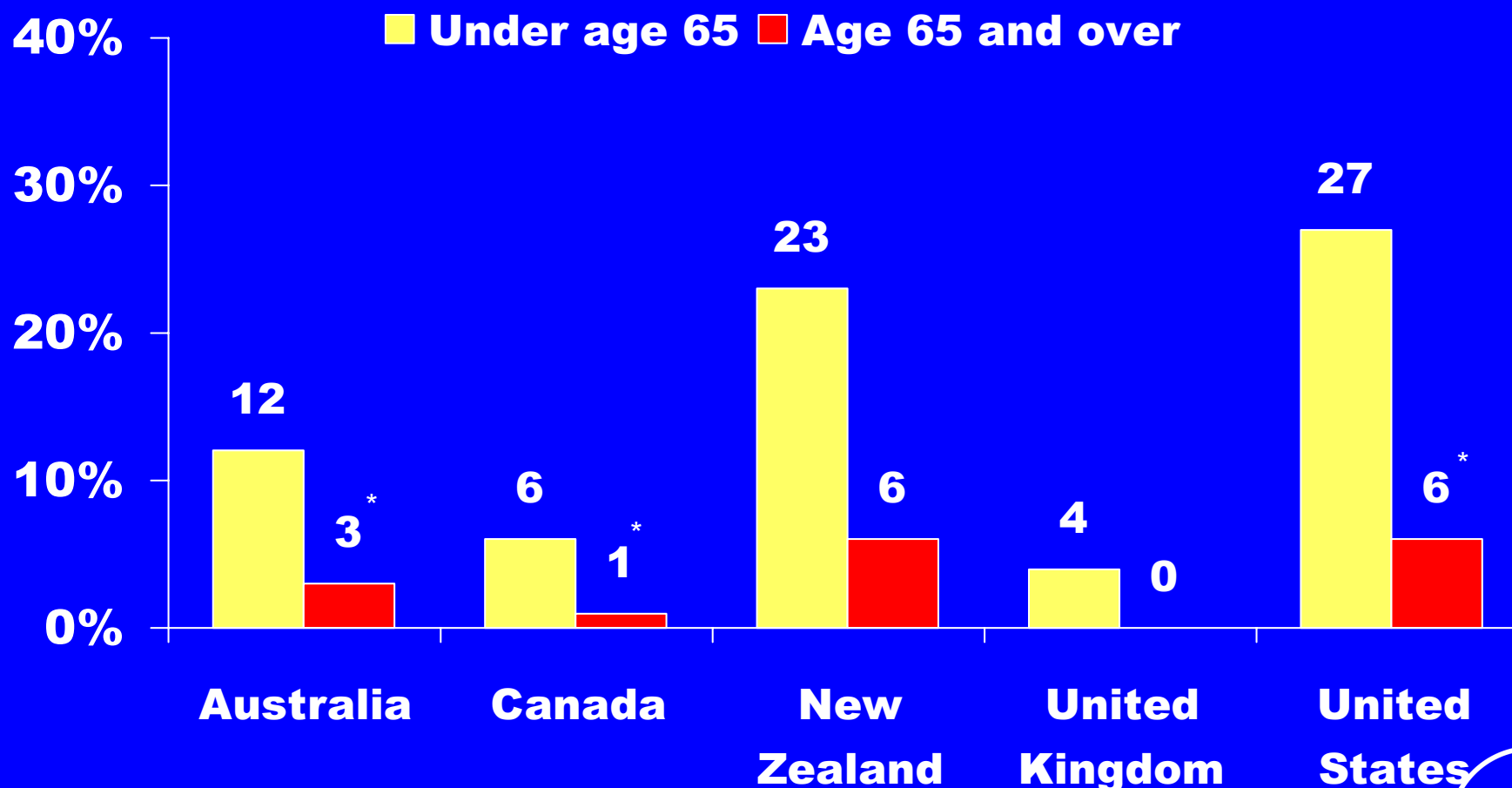
Percent of the Elderly Who...	AUS	CAN	NZ	UK	US
Find it extremely or somewhat difficult to meet basic living costs	20%	15%	26%	26%	21%
Had problems paying medical bills in the past year	4%	3%	5%	1%	6%

Source: Schoen, et al., *The Elderly's Experiences with Health Care in Five Nations*, The Commonwealth Fund, May 2000.



Few Elderly Forego Seeing Doctor When Needed Due to Costs

Percent who had a medical problem but did not see a doctor due to costs



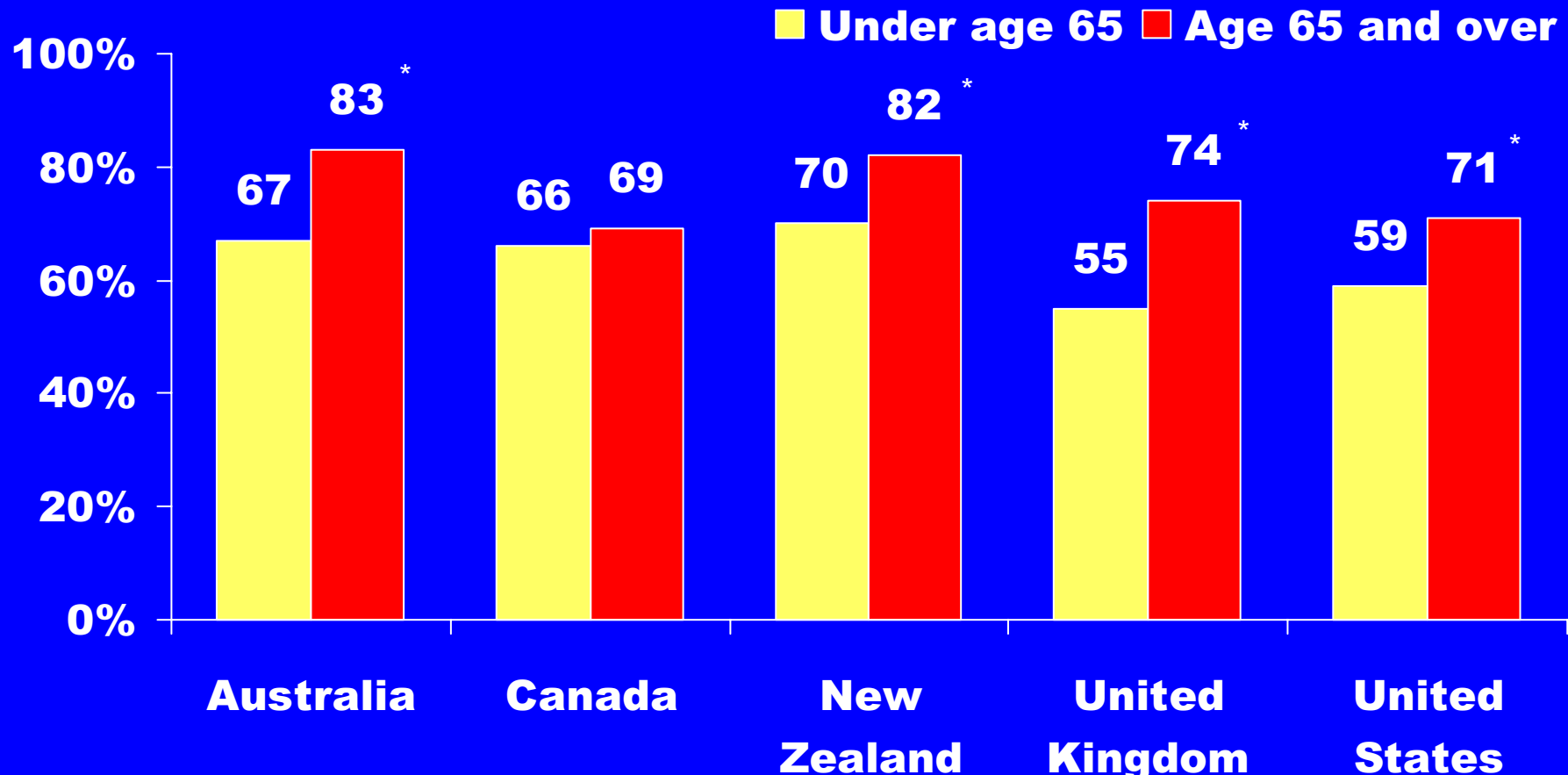
* Significantly different from group ages 18-64 at $p = .05$

Source: Analysis of *The Commonwealth Fund 2001 International Health Policy Survey*.

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The Elderly Give Their Doctors High Ratings

Average percent of adults ranking their doctor “excellent” or “very good” on 6 measures of quality of care¹



¹ These included: treating you with dignity and respect; listening carefully; being accessible by phone or in person; spending enough time; knowing you; providing you with all the information you want.

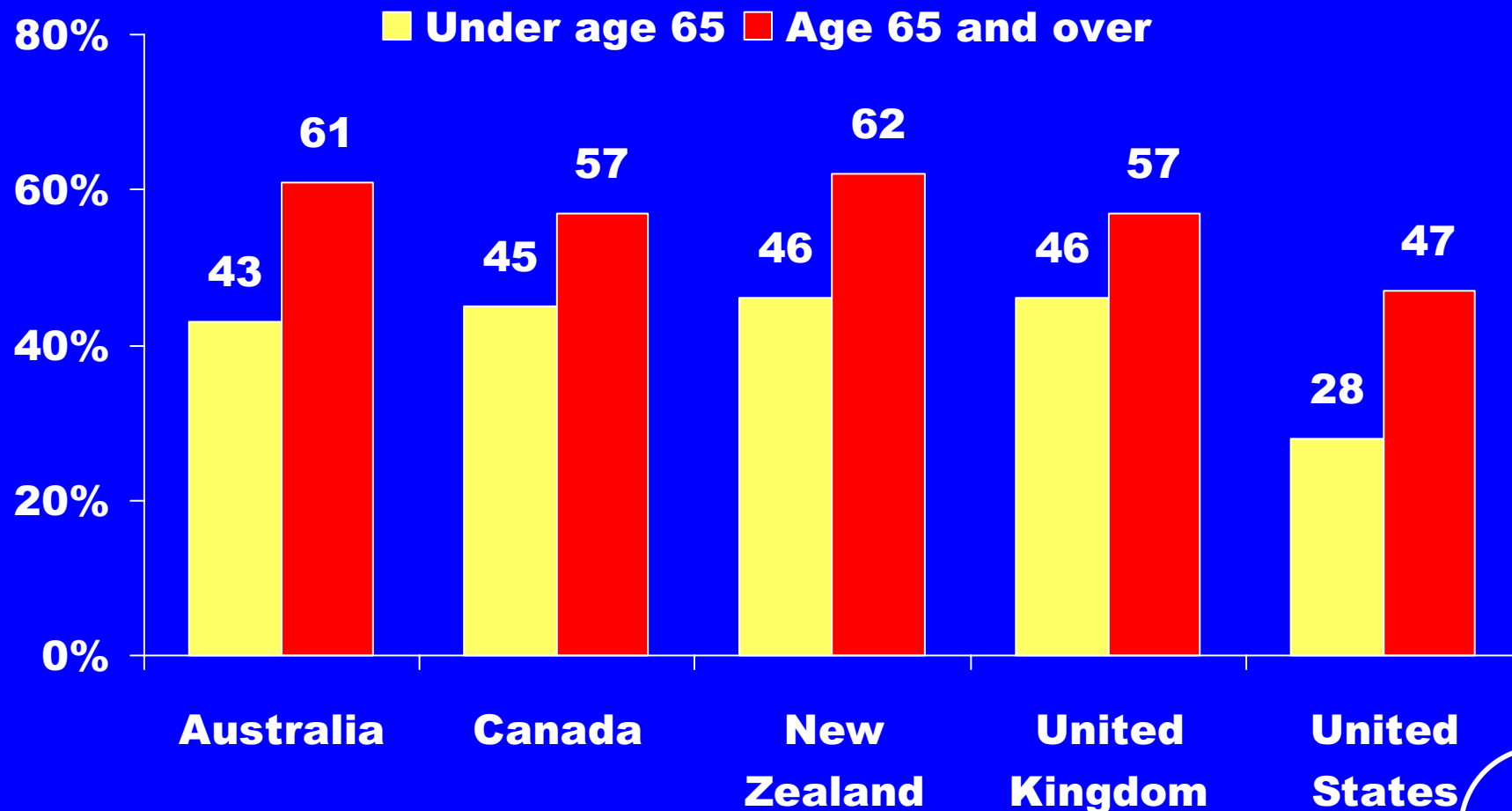
* Significantly different from group ages 18-64 at $p = .05$

Source: Analysis of *The Commonwealth Fund 2001 International Health Policy Survey*.



The Elderly Often Have Long-Term Relationships with a Doctor

Percent of adults with same doctor for 6 years or more



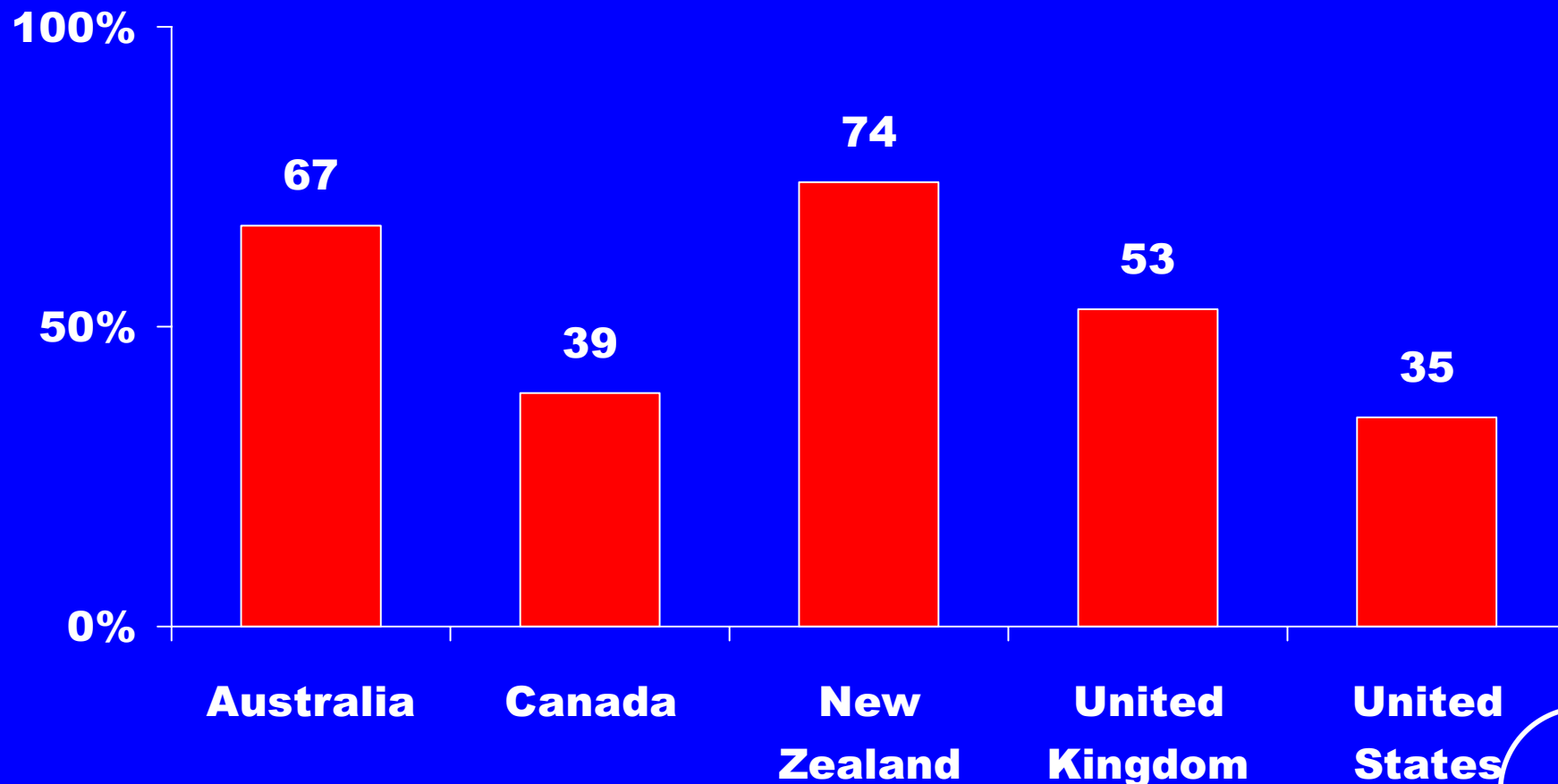
* Significantly different from group ages 18-64 at $p = .05$

Source: Analysis of *The Commonwealth Fund 2001 International Health Policy Survey*.

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Same Day Care Access to Physicians Varies Widely Across Countries

Percent of elderly who report they are able to see a doctor the same day when sick.



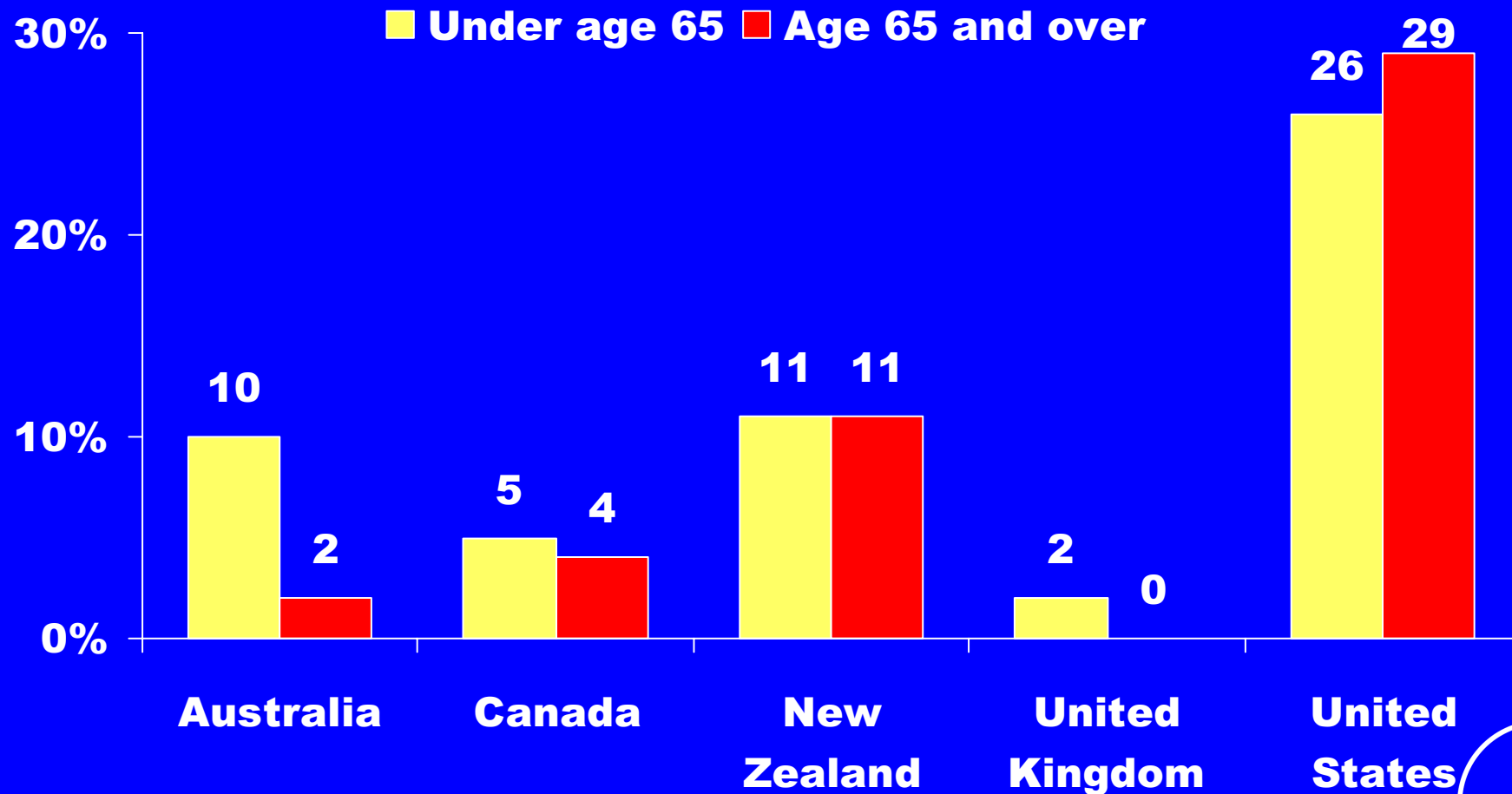
* Patterns were similar for the under 65 population.

Source: Analysis of *The Commonwealth Fund 2001 International Health Policy Survey*.



U.S. Adults Exposed to High Out-of-Pocket Medical Costs Compared to Other Countries

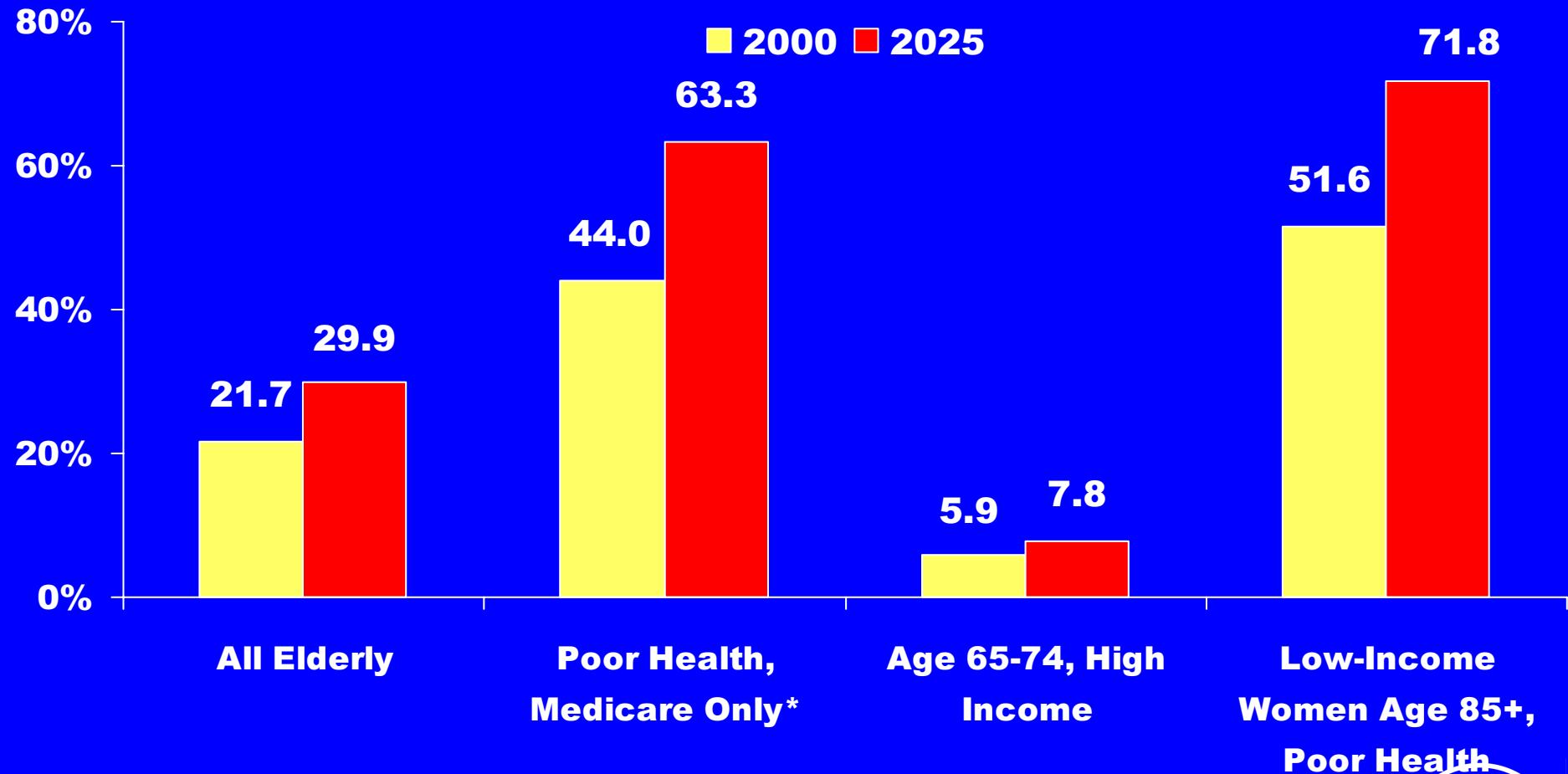
Percent of adults who report spending \$1,000 or more out-of-pocket on medical care in the past year



Source: Analysis of *The Commonwealth Fund 2001 International Health Policy Survey*.

Out-of-Pocket Health Care Spending as a Share of Income for U.S. Elderly, 2000 and 2025

Percent of income spent on out-of-pocket medical costs



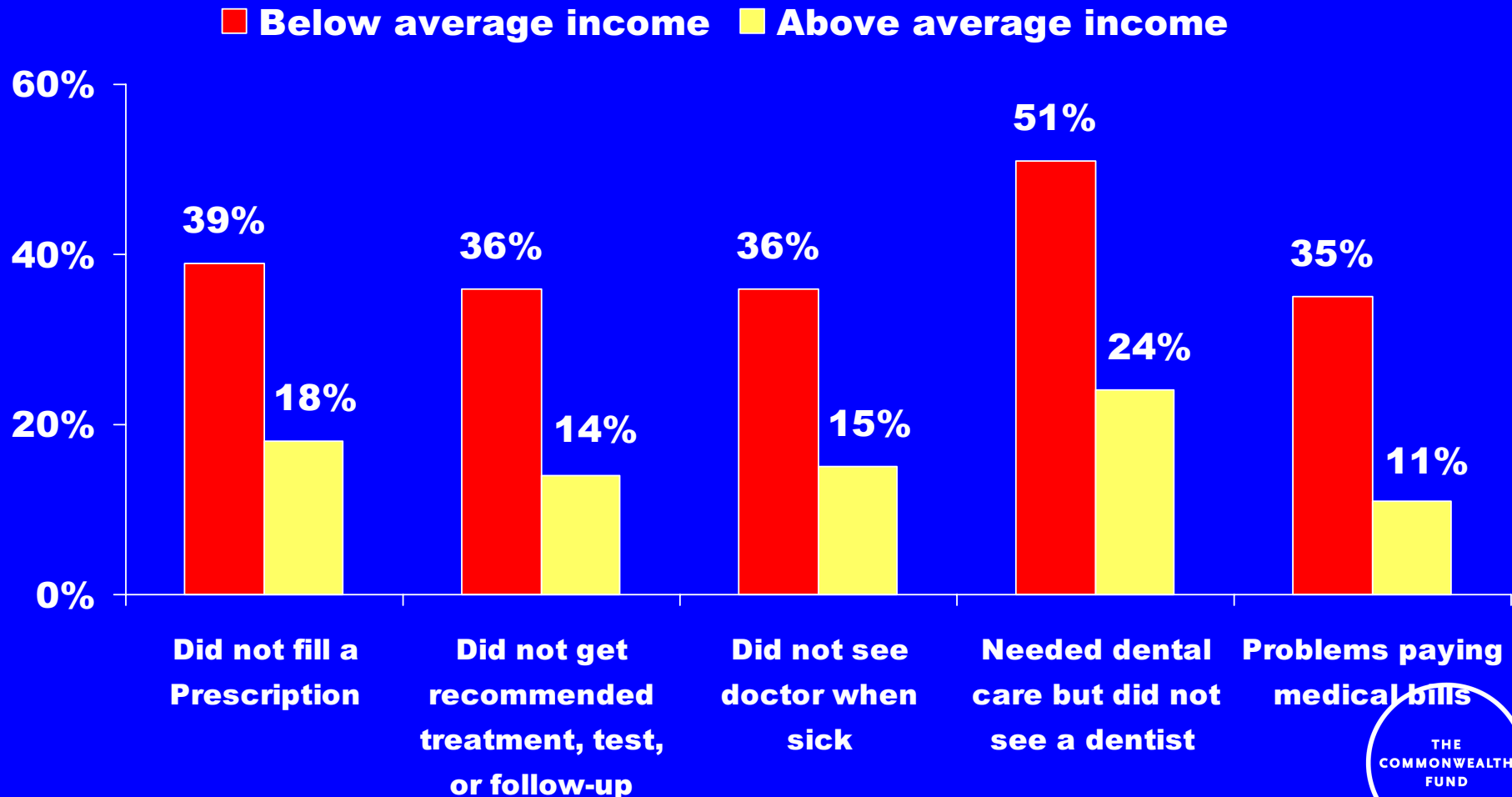
* No insurance beyond U.S. Medicare basic benefits

Source: Maxwell, Moon, Segal, *Growth in Medicare and Out-of-Pocket Spending: Impact on Vulnerable Beneficiaries*, The Commonwealth Fund, January 2001.



U.S. Low-Income Adults Often Forgo Needed Care Due to Costs or Struggle to Pay Health Bills

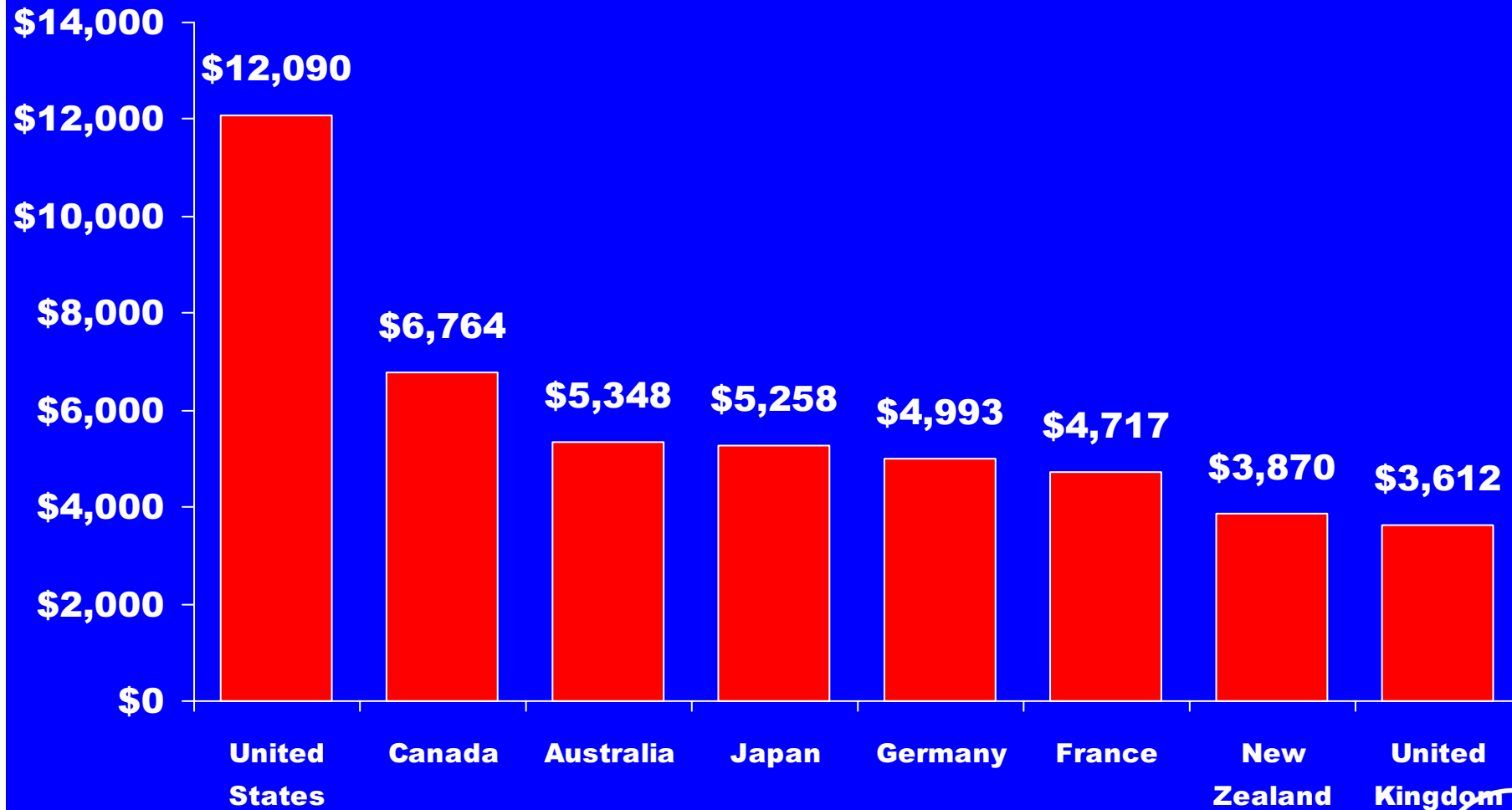
Percent who had the following problems in the past year due to cost



Source: The Commonwealth Fund 2001 International Health Policy Survey

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Health Expenditures Per Capita for Adults Age 65 and Older, 1997

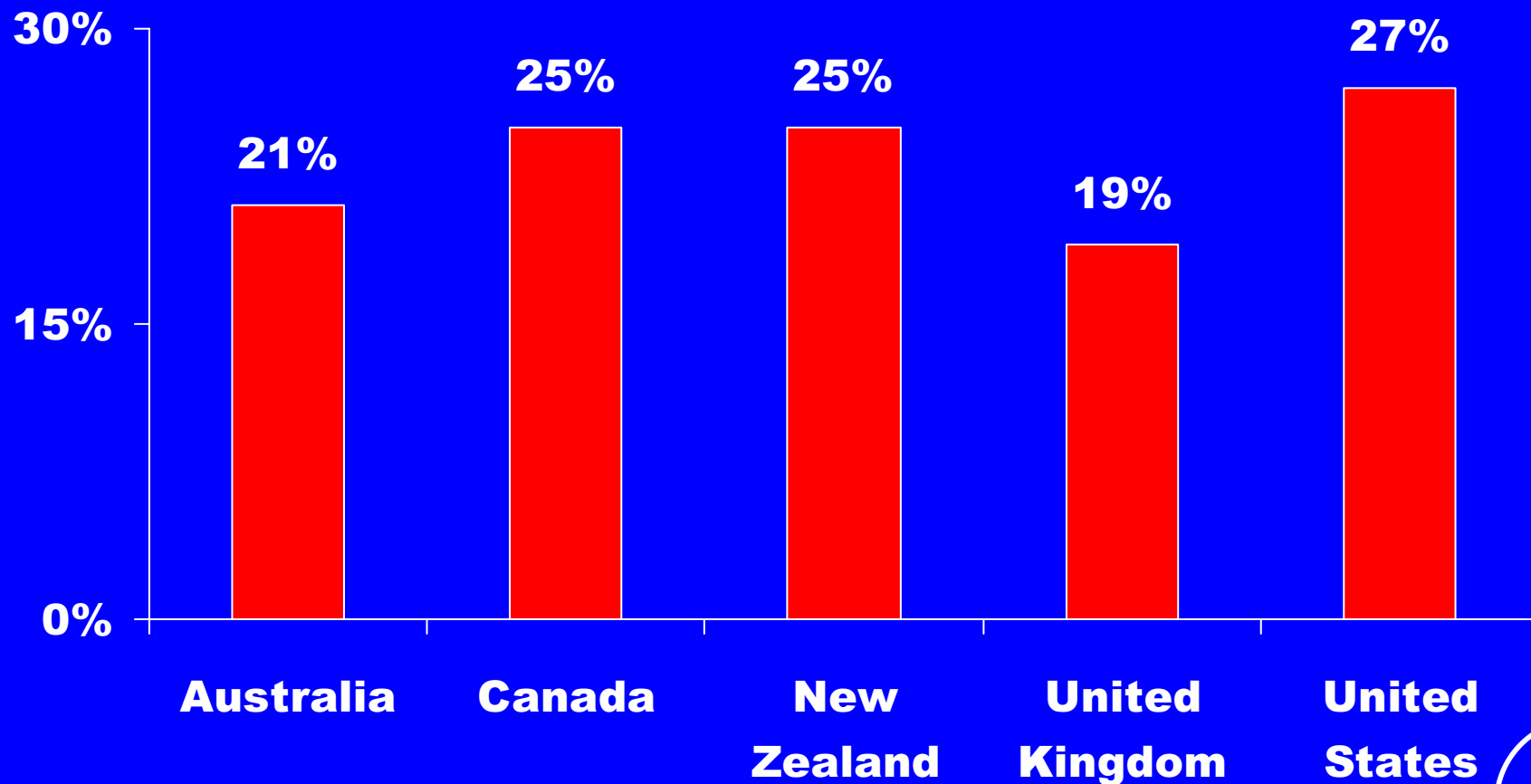


Source: Anderson and Hussey, *Health and Population Aging: A Multinational Comparison*, The Commonwealth Fund, October 1999. Data source: OECD.

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The Elderly Are Often Caregivers

Percent of the elderly who are currently caring or have in the past two years cared for someone who is frail, sick, or disabled

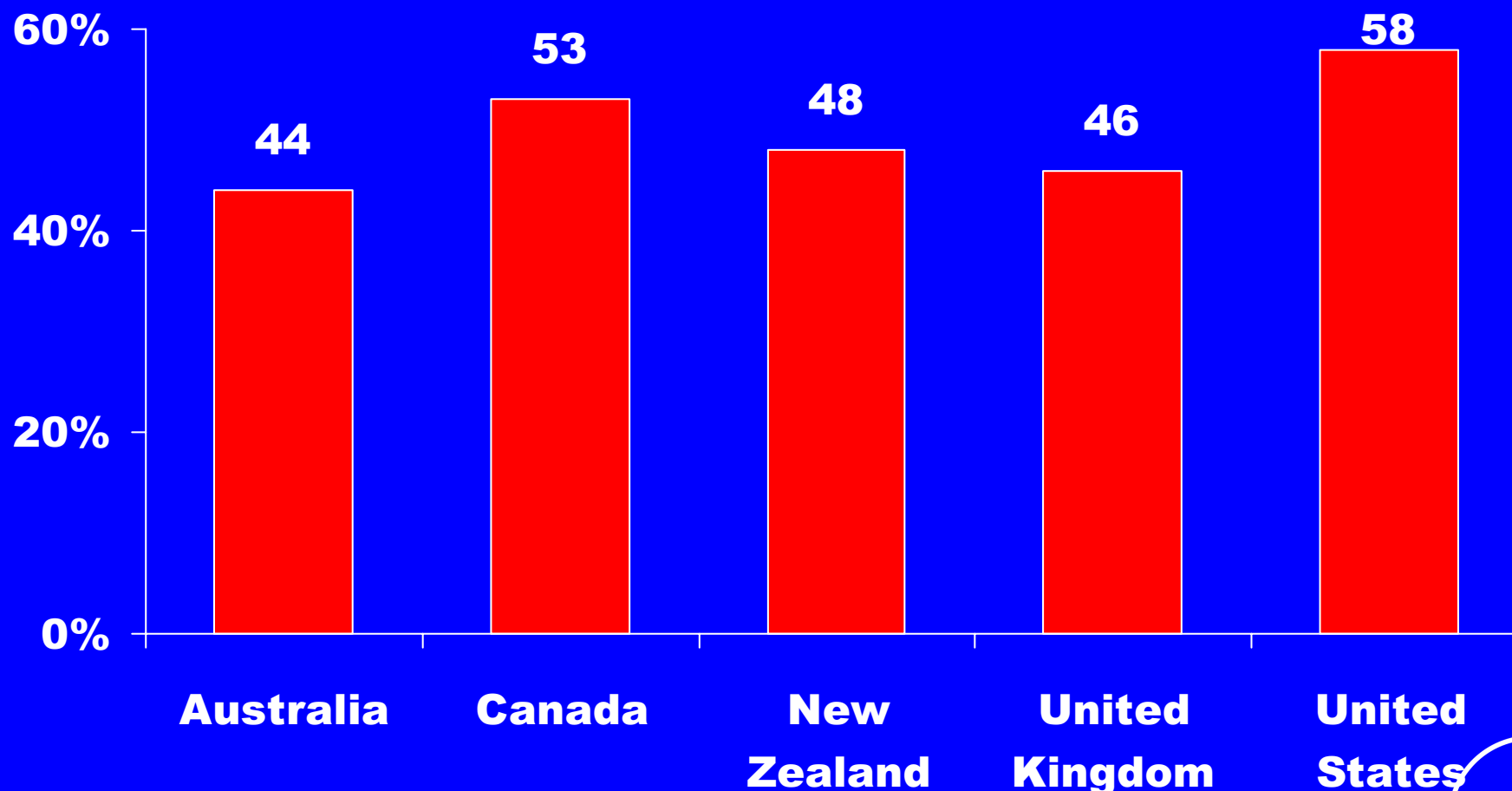


Source: Schoen, et al., *The Elderly's Experiences with Health Care in Five Nations*, The Commonwealth Fund, May 2000.



Caregivers' Ability to Get Additional Help

Percent of elderly caregivers reporting paid home health care in addition to informal care

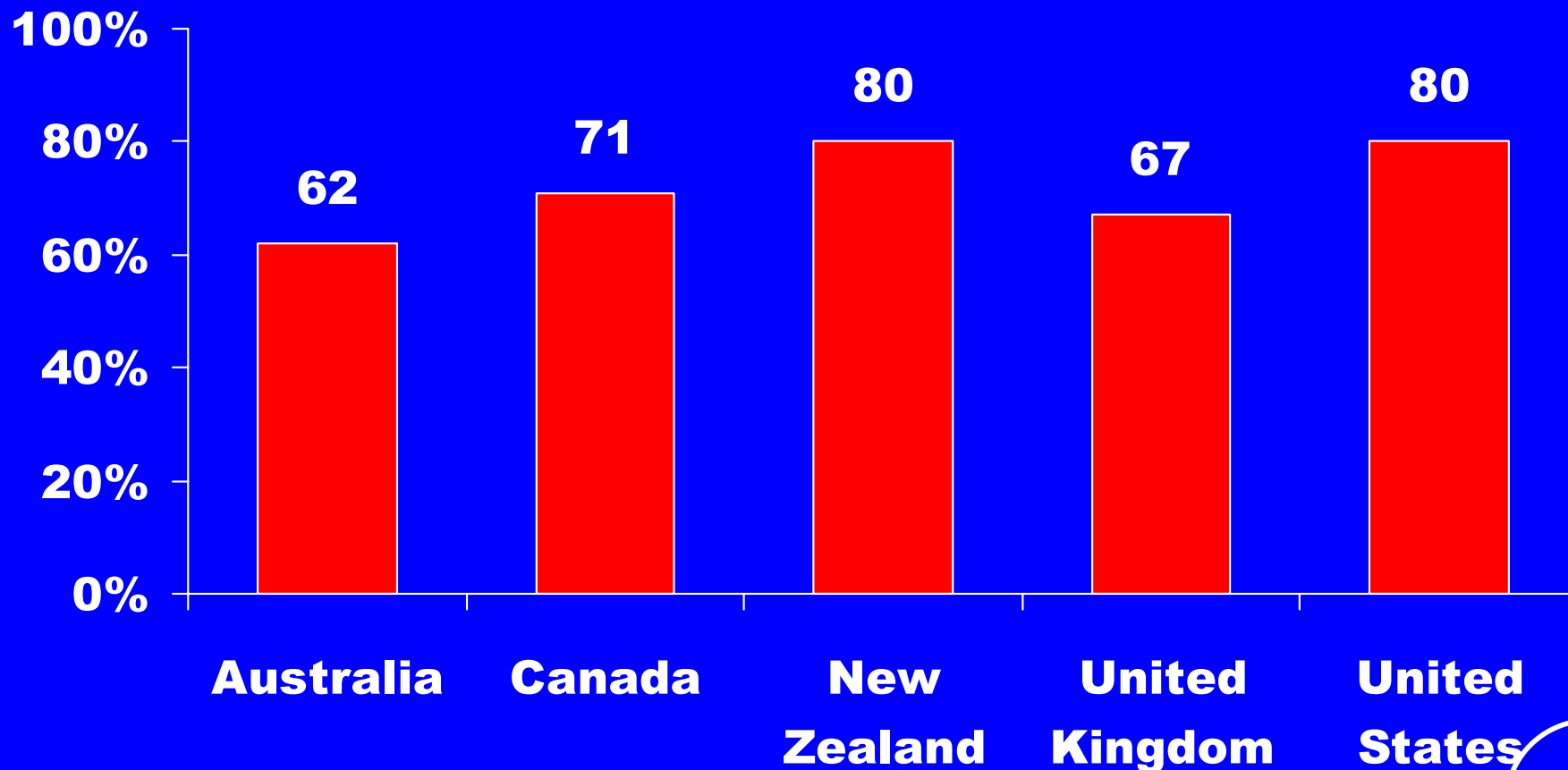


Source: Schoen, et al., *The Elderly's Experiences with Health Care in Five Nations*, The Commonwealth Fund, May 2000.

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Public or Government Program Assistance is Usually the Source of Paid Home Health Care

Percent of elderly caregivers reporting paid home care assistance who said a government program or public insurance paid for care



Source: Schoen, et al., *The Elderly's Experiences with Health Care in Five Nations*, The Commonwealth Fund, May 2000.

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The Elderly Often Receive Care Support from Their Children

Percent of the Elderly with Children Who...	AUS	CAN	NZ	UK	US
Often receive help from children when they are ill	31%	26%	37%	30%	32%
Receive financial support from children:					
Often	3%	4%	4%	4%	3%
Sometimes	9%	8%	10%	14%	13%

Source: Schoen, et al., *The Elderly's Experiences with Health Care in Five Nations*, The Commonwealth Fund, May 2000.



Summary

- **Common concerns amidst diverse system yield opportunities to learn cross-nationally**
- **U.S. experience with markets and cost sharing indicate the cost burden risk to low income elderly and little yield in cost control**
- **Surveys offer the potential to assess access, efforts to make systems more responsive, and to compare patient care experiences**
- **Successful aging policy will need to include a mix of public and private strategies to support caregivers**

Description of The Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Surveys

2001 International Health Policy Survey

Included telephone interviews with 1,400 adults in each of five countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Conducted during April and May 2001 by Harris Interactive, the survey explored adults views of their health care system, access, physician care, and other recent care experiences and included questions asked in earlier surveys to examine trends over time.

1999 International Health Policy Survey of the Elderly

Included interviews with 700 adults age 65 or older in the same five countries. The survey focused on health care experiences, long-term care and roles as caregivers, and related concerns. Harris Interactive, Inc. and their international affiliates conducted the survey from April to June 1999.

**Reports based on the survey and other Fund Supported
International Work can be found at www.cmwf.org**

