Here’s a better way to compare. This chart shows trends in life expectancy by trends in health spending from 1970 to 2008.

![Graph showing life expectancy vs. health expenditures per capita](image)

**Life expectancy by health expenditures per capita, 1970-2008**

The data points are years. Health expenditures are total (public and private), in inflation-adjusted PPP-converted US dollars, at t-5. The other countries are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Data source: OECD.

The United States still stands out, and in a big way. Our gain in life expectancy per additional health spending is much smaller than in other countries, particularly after the early 1980s when we reached expenditures of about $2,500 per person (in 2005 dollars) and life expectancy of around 74–75 years.