



Health Care Systems: An International Comparison

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Most industrialized countries have established hybrid systems in which the public sector, which has the greater share of responsibility, works alongside the private sector, both in the funding of health care ...

	Health system's main source of financing		
	Taxes	Social Security Funds	Private Insurance
Australia (1992)	✓		
Canada (1990)	✓		
Denmark (1993)	✓		
France (1990)		✓	
Germany (1989)		✓	
Italy (1988)	✓		
Japan (1991)		✓	
Netherlands (1983)		✓	
Norway	✓		
Sweden	✓		
Switzerland (1991)			✓
United Kingdom (1994)	✓		
United States (1990)			✓

Source: Blanchette, Claude, "Public and Private Sector Involvement in Health Care Systems: An International Comparison," Bulletin 438E, Library of Parliament, 1997

... and in the delivery of hospital care

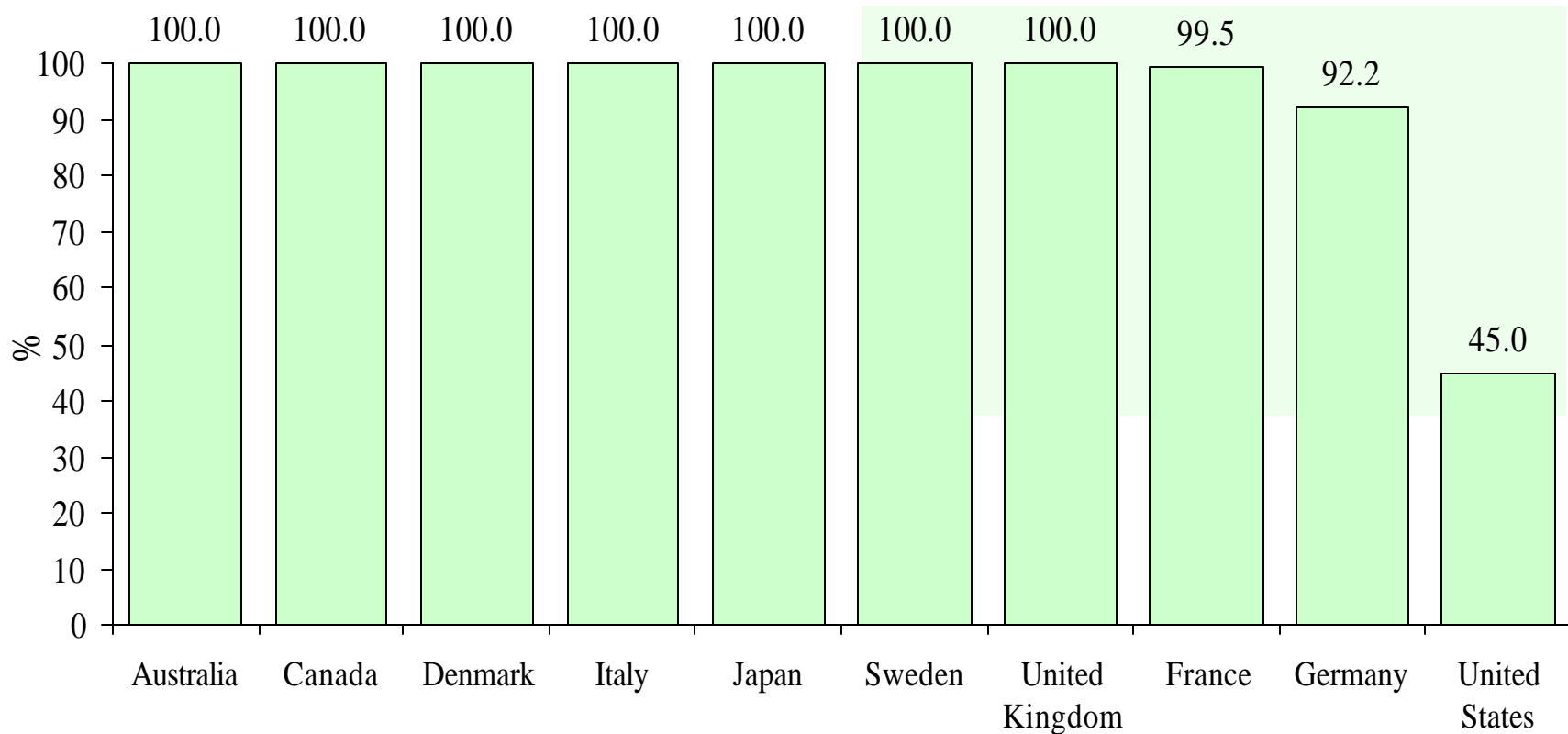
Main Delivery Entity of Hospital Health Care (as percentage of hospital beds)			
	Public	Non-Profit	Private
Australia (1992)	75	---	25
Canada (1990)	98	---	2
Denmark (1993)	Most	---	---
France (1990)	65	16	19
Germany (1989)	51	35	14
Italy (1988)	80	20	0
Japan (1991)*	19	---	81
Netherlands (1983)	15	85	0
Norway	Most	---	---
Sweden	Most	---	---
Switzerland (1991)*	46	32	22
United Kingdom (1994)*	5	90	5
United States (1990)**	27	59	14

* As percentage of hospitals ** As percentage of acute-care hospital beds

Source: Blanchette, Claude, "Public and Private Sector Involvement in Health Care Systems: An International Comparison," Bulletin 438E, Library of Parliament, 1997

With the exception of Germany and the United States, most of the industrialized countries have universal publicly funded health care systems

Percentage of Total Population with Public Insurance (1997)



Source: 2000 OECD Health Data

The payment of user fees is a common practice in most OECD countries, but this practice is less widespread in Canada

Public Health Care User Fees 1993 (\$CDN)				
	Physician/ specialist	Drugs	Hospital	X-Ray/ laboratory
Australia	\$5-\$8	\$11	---	---
Canada	---	D/C*	---	---
Denmark	---	0%-50%	---	---
France	25%	30%-100%	20%<30days+\$6/day	35%
Germany	---	\$1.25	\$3<14days	---
Italy	\$0/\$7-\$8	\$3+50% or \$0	---	30%
Japan	10%-30%	10%-30%	10%-30%	10%-30%
Netherlands	---	fixed-price	---	---
Norway	\$11/\$16	25% (max \$43)	---	\$11
Sweden	\$6-\$9/\$0	D \$15 and \$1/drugs	\$8	---
Switzerland	10%	\$7	\$7	10%
United Kingdom	---	\$4-\$5/drug or \$65/annual	---	---
United States	20%>\$100D	100%	\$676<60days	20%>\$100D

D: Deductible, C: Co-insurance *Depending on provinces

Source: Blanchette, Claude, "Public and Private Sector Involvement in Health Care Systems: An International Comparison," Bulletin 438E, Library of Parliament, 1997

Not counting the United States, Canada has among the most limited publicly funded extended care coverage in the OECD countries

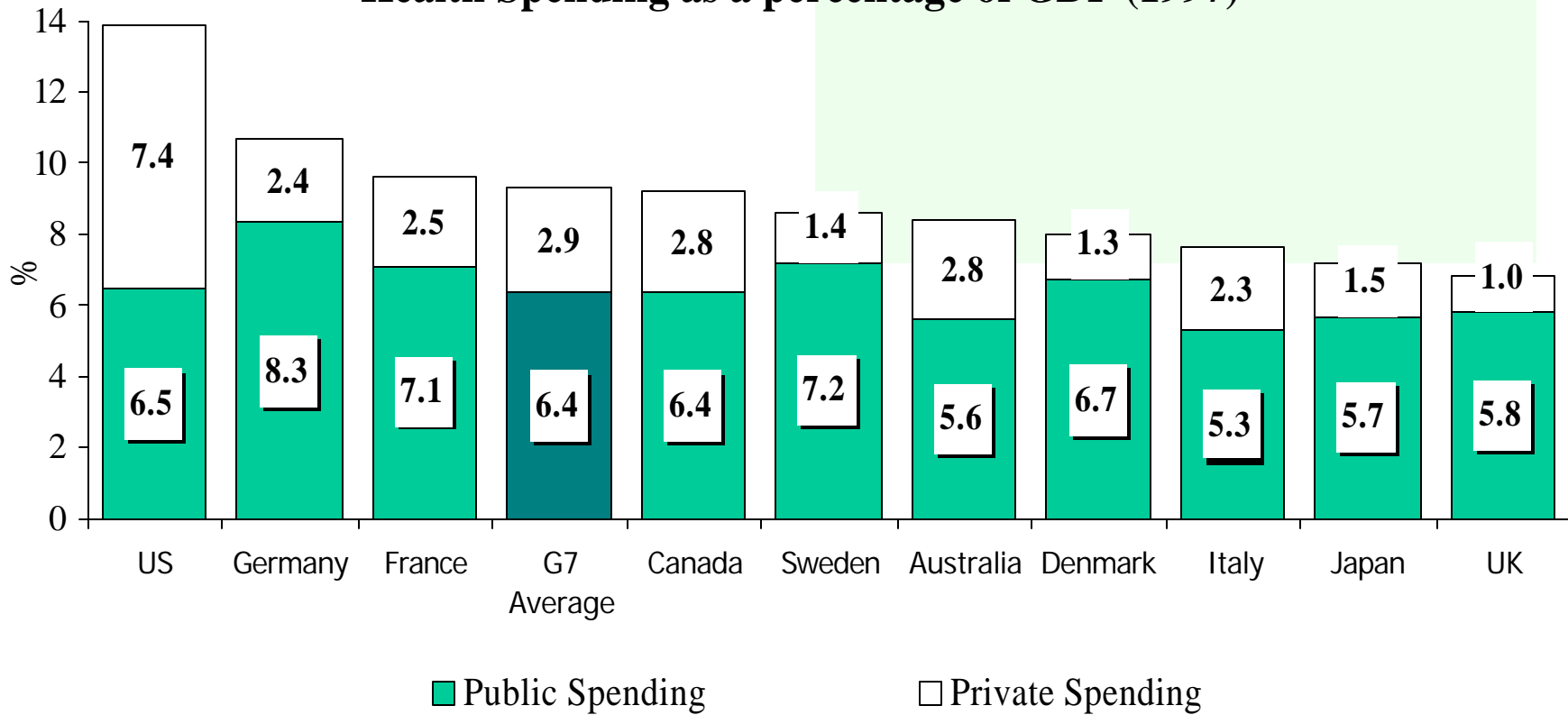
Public coverage of complementary care					
Countries covering almost all care	Countries not covering the following care				
	Drugs	Glasses	Dental care	Prostheses	Other
Germany	Canada ¹	Canada	Canada	Canada	Canada ⁴
Italy	United States	United States	United States	United States	United States
Belgium	Australia	Australia	Australia	France	Japan ⁵
Denmark	United Kingdom ²	United Kingdom	France	Portugal	New Zealand ⁶
Finland	Portugal ³	France	Austria		
Greece	Sweden ²	Japan			
Iceland		Austria			
Luxembourg					
Norway					
Spain					

1. The Canadian system covers only drugs received in hospitals. Drugs prescribed outside hospitals are paid in part or entirely by consumers, by private insurance or by public provincial insurance.
2. Affordable Drugs 3. Some pharmaceutical products 4. Private hospital care and sanatoria
5. Medical check-up, private room and injection 6. Outpatient care

Source: Blanchette, Claude, "Public and Private Sector Involvement in Health Care Systems: An International Comparison," Bulletin 438E, Library of Parliament, 1997

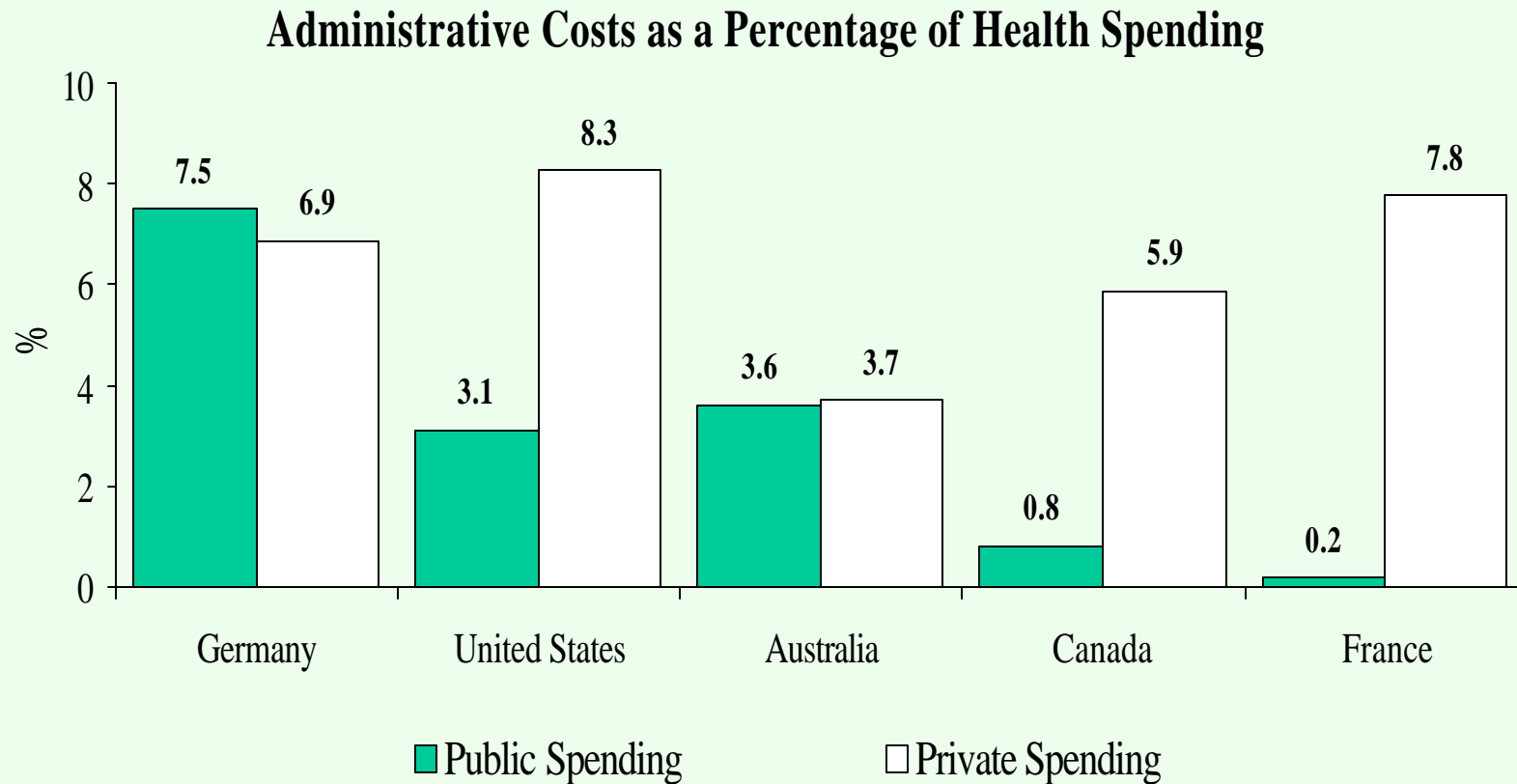
Canada spends about the same percentage of GDP on health care as the G7 average, while the US spends substantially more

Health Spending as a percentage of GDP (1997)



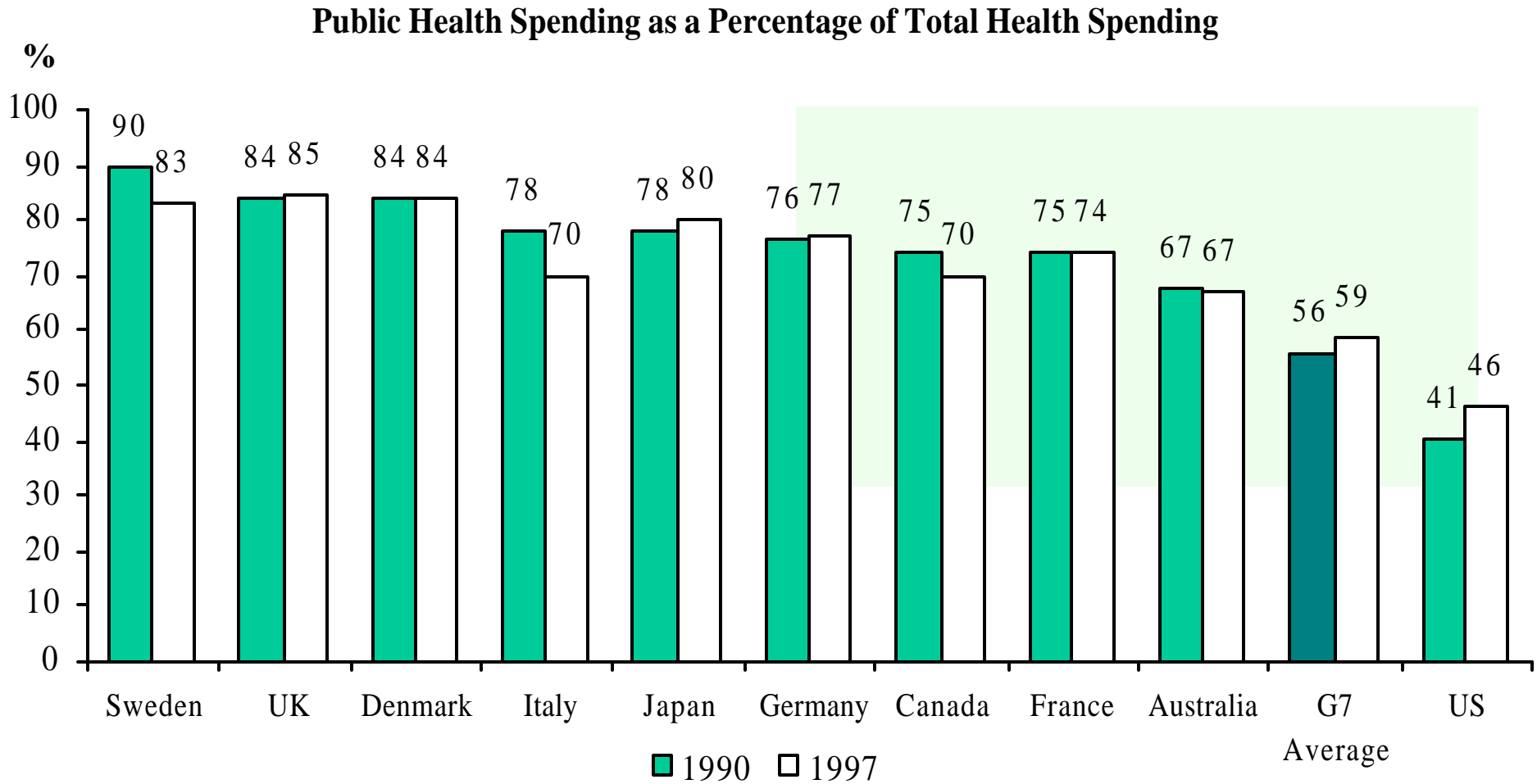
Source: 2000 OECD Health Data

The United States spends a larger percentage of its GDP on health care mainly because of higher labour, administrative and malpractice insurance costs



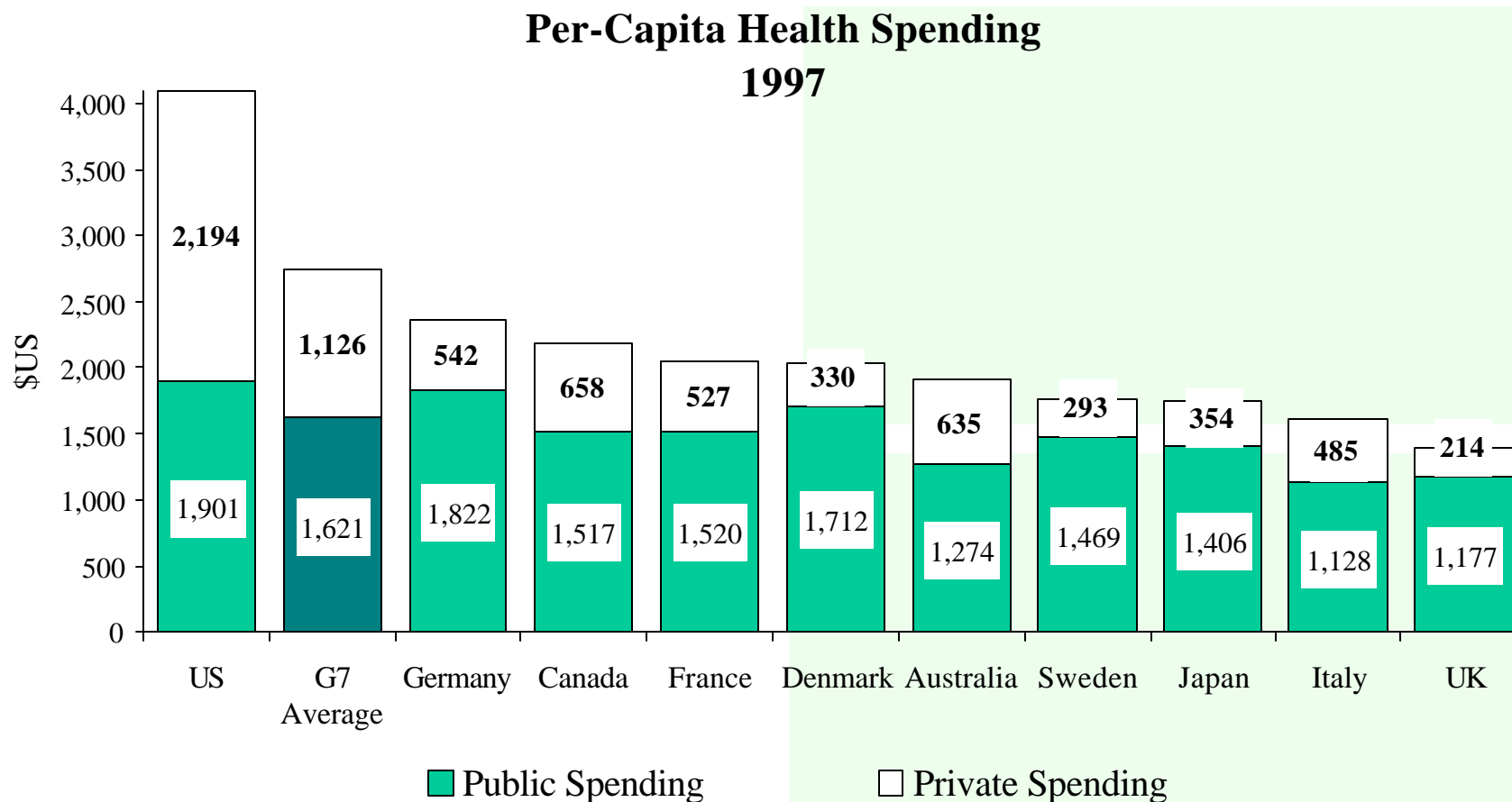
* 1994 for Australia, Canada, Switzerland, 1995 for Germany and 1996 for France and United States.
Source: 1998 OECD Health Data

Canada's public spending as a percentage of overall health care spending is lower than in many industrialized countries but higher than in the US



Source: 2000 OECD Health Data

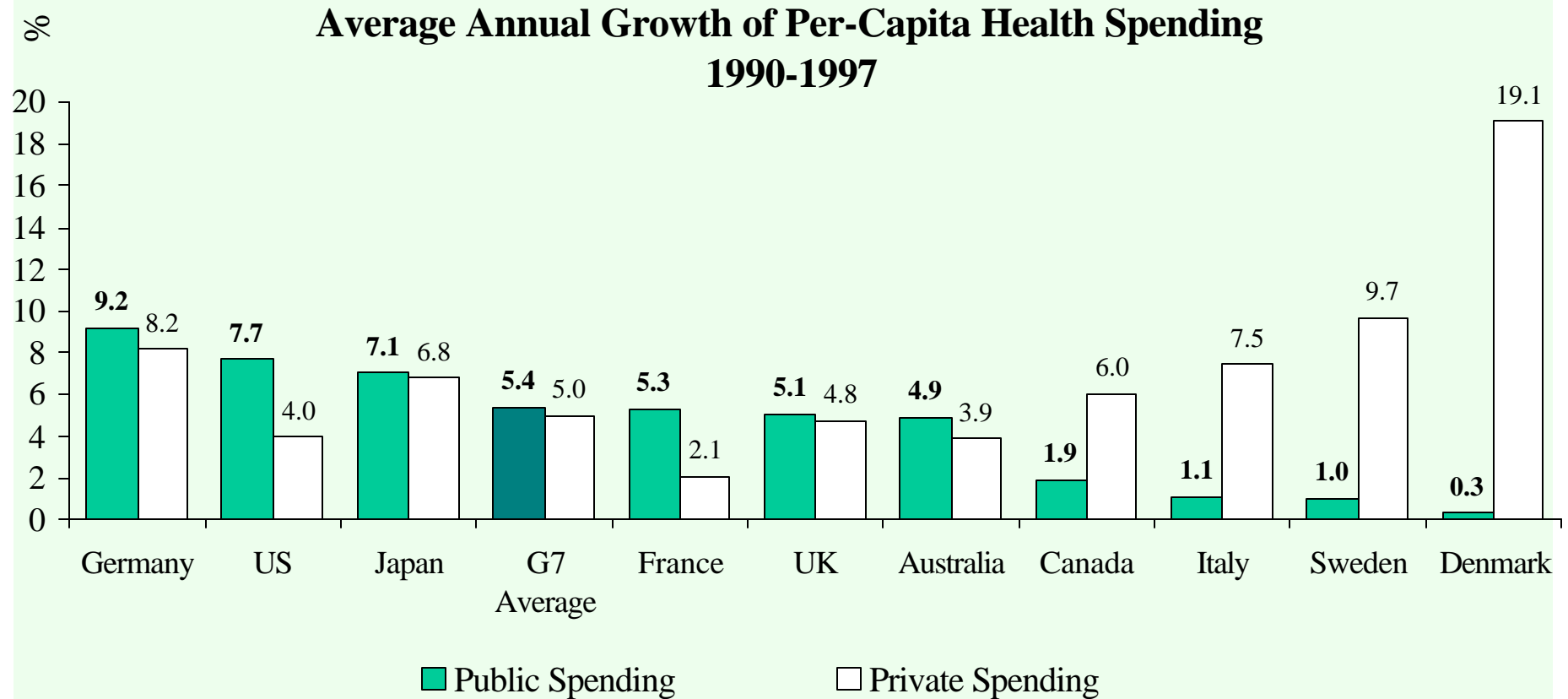
Per-capita health care spending in Canada is lower than the G7 average, while it is substantially higher in the United States



Source: 2000 OECD Health Data

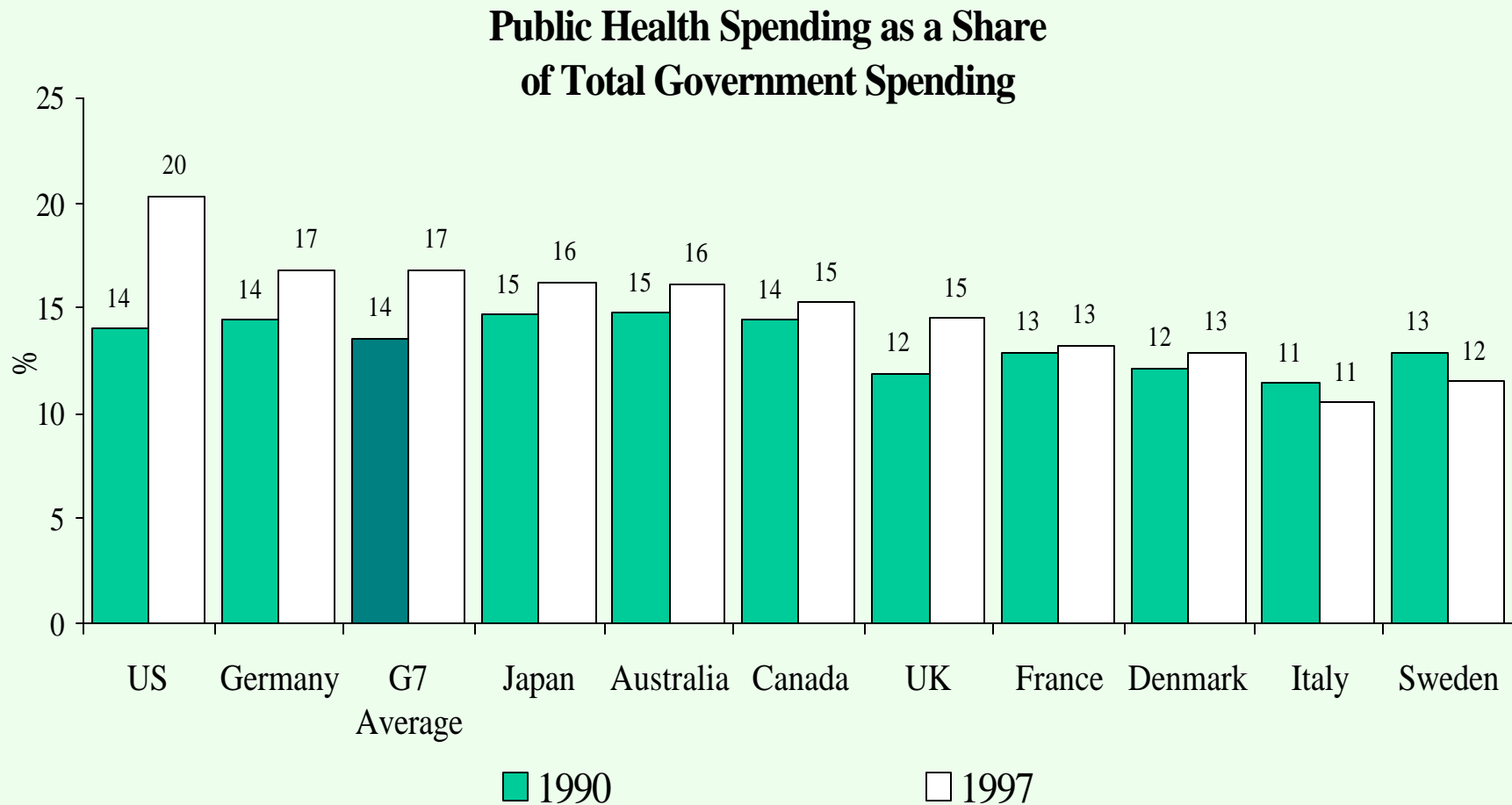
* Data in US dollars converted with purchasing power parity.

Growth of per-capita public spending during the 1990s was substantially below the G7 average in Canada, while it was above the G7 average in the United States



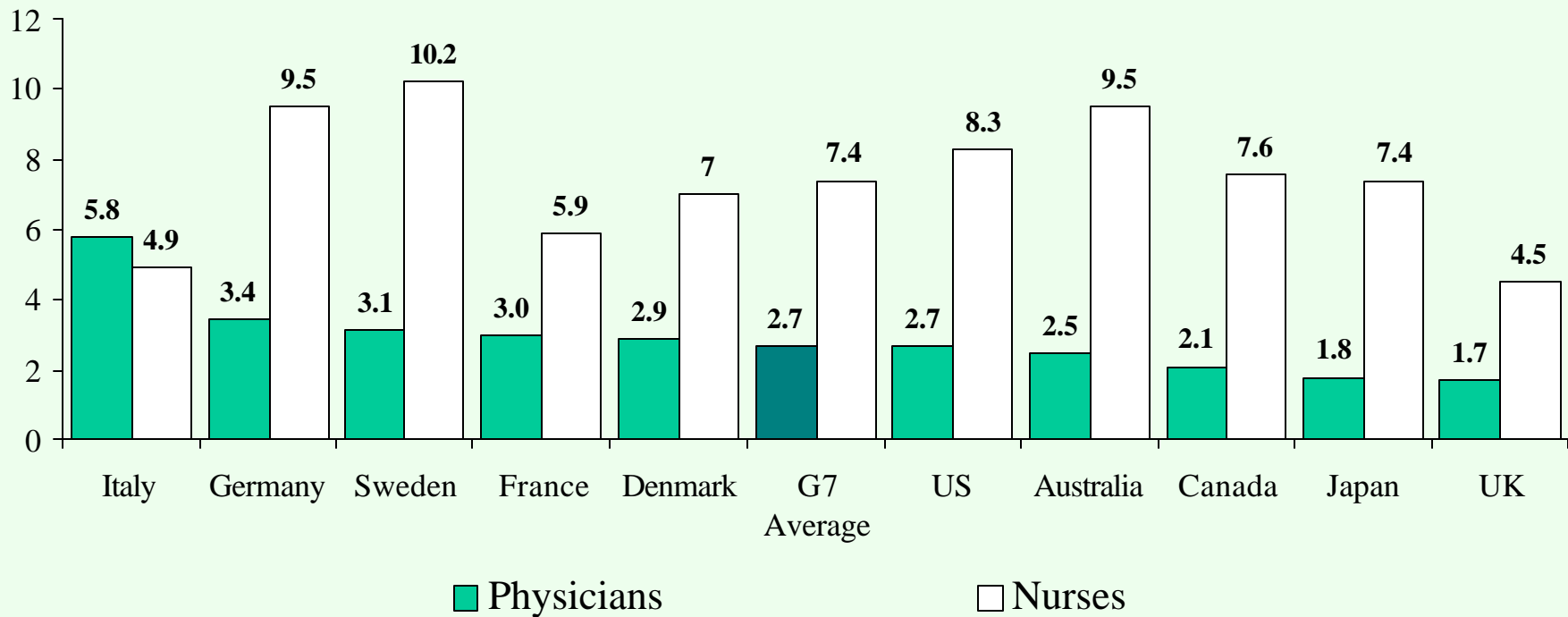
Source: 1998 OECD Health Data

While the share of public spending allocated to health care is lower than the G7 average in Canada, it is higher in the United States



Health care delivery in Canada is dependent on a smaller number of physicians than the average for the G7 countries

Number of Physicians* and Nurses
per 1,000 persons, 1997**



* 1996 for Japan, United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden and the G7 average.

**1996 for Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, Australia, Denmark, Sweden and the G7 average.

Source: 2000 OECD Health Data

Physicians' incomes are substantially higher in the United States than in other industrialized countries

**Annual Average Income of Physicians
1996****

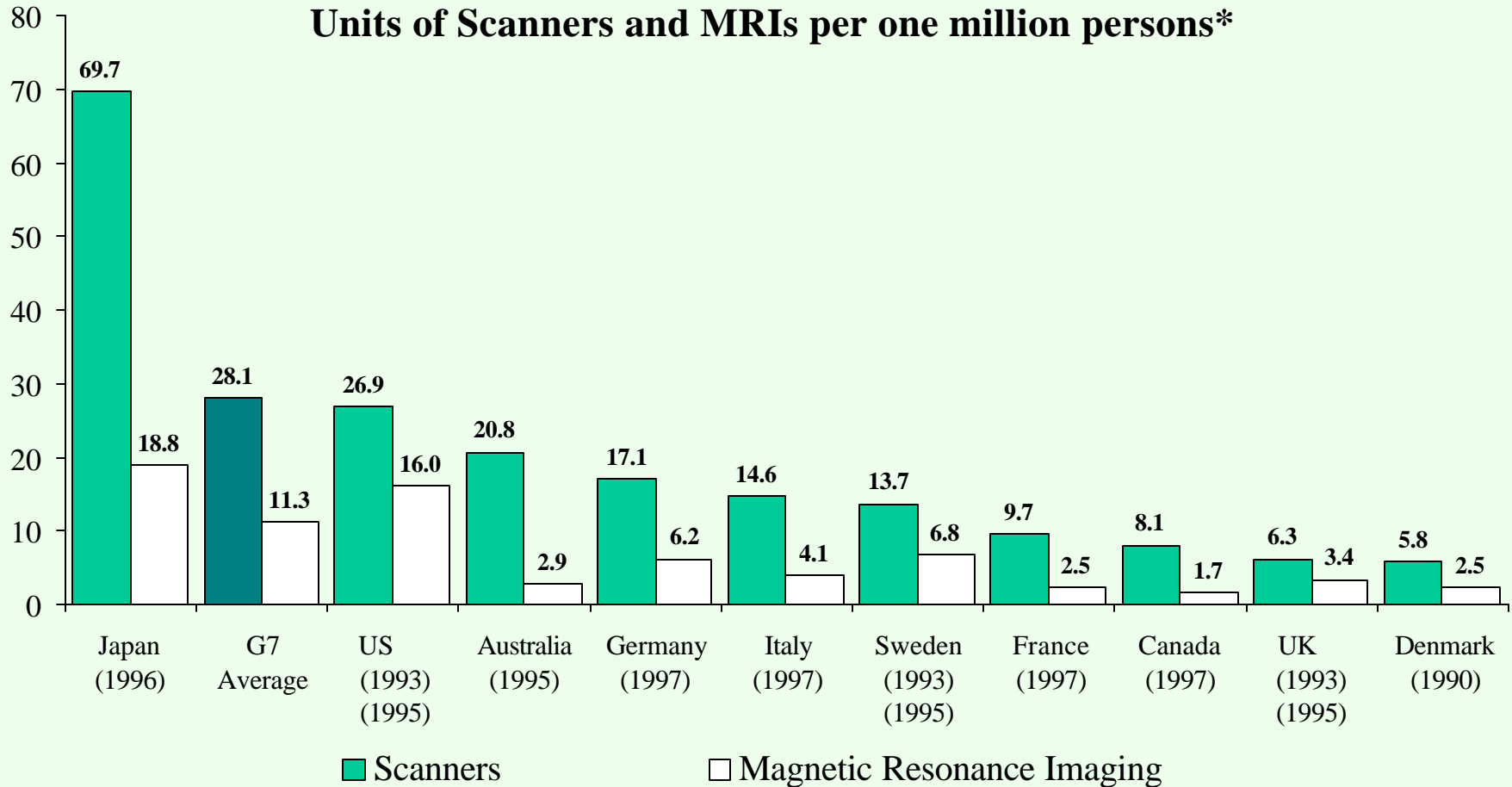


* Data in US dollars converted with purchasing power parity.

** 1991 for UK, 1992 for Canada and Germany, 1995 for Sweden and 1997 for France and Japan.

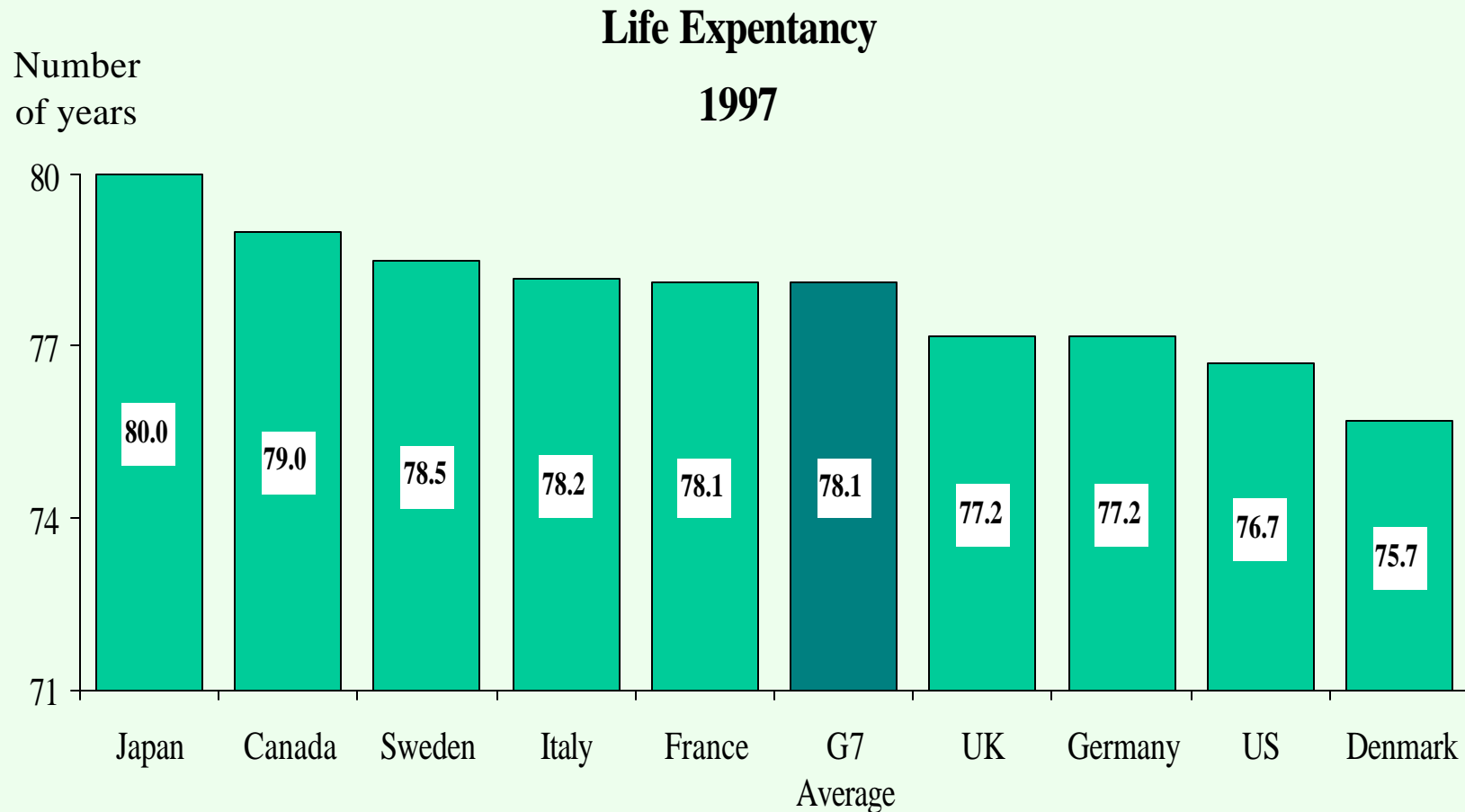
Source: 2000 OECD Health Data

Canada has far fewer scanners and magnetic resonance imaging machines per capita than the United States and the G7 average



Source: 2000 OECD Health Data

Life expectancy in Canada compares favourably with the other G7 countries, while the United States compares less favourably



Source: World Health Report 1999

Canada and the United States rank poorly on some health status indicators, although Canada outperforms the United States

Health Indicators

Rank	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births (1997*)	Cancer Mortality Rate per 100,000 persons (1995**)	Heart Disease mortality ¹ per 100,000 persons (1995***)
1	Japan (3.7)	Japan (156)	France (173)
2	Sweden (4.0)	Sweden (158)	Japan (178)
3	Germany (4.8)	Australia (177)	Canada (227)
4	France (4.8)	United States (183)	Australia (255)
5	Australia (5.3)	Canada (184)	Italy (271)
6	Denmark (5.6)	Germany (184)	Sweden (273)
7	United Kingdom (5.9)	France (186)	United States (280)
8	Canada (6.0)	Italy (195)	United Kingdom (282)
9	Italy (6.2)	United Kingdom (192)	Germany (308)
10	United States (7.8)	Denmark (227)	Denmark (328)

* 1995 for Italy, 1996 for Canada, Denmark, United States and Sweden

** 1993 for Denmark and Italy, 1996 for United States and Sweden, 1997 for Germany and United Kingdom

*** 1993 for Denmark and Italy, 1994 for Japan, 1996 for United States and Sweden and 1997 for Germany and United Kingdom

¹ Includes ischaemic heart diseases, acute myocardial infarction, cerebrovascular diseases and others.

Source: 2000 OECD Health Data

Only 23 percent of Canadians, compared with over one third of Americans, feel that their health care system needs to be completely rebuilt

% of public saying:	Australia	Canada	New Zealand	UK	US
completely rebuild the health care system	30%	23%	32%	14%	33%
system works pretty well, only minor changes needed	19%	20%	9%	25%	17%
recent system changes will harm quality of care	28%	45%	38%	12%	18%
they did not get needed care in past year	8%	10%	12%	10%	14%
it is very difficult for themselves or family members to see a specialist or consultant	35%	47%	34%	29%	40%
they had problems paying medical bills in the past 12 months	10%	5%	15%	3%	18%
amount spent in the past year on medical bills not covered by insurance was more than US \$750	19%	9%	10%	1%	29%
the medical care they and their family received in the past 12 months has been excellent or very good	54%	54%	54%	50%	49%