

The case for national pharmacare

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Access to medicines is a human right



Central Obligation

To respect, protect, and promote the right to health through universal access to safe and appropriate care .. including prescription drugs.

Every high-income country
with a universal health
care system provides
universal coverage of
prescription drugs ...

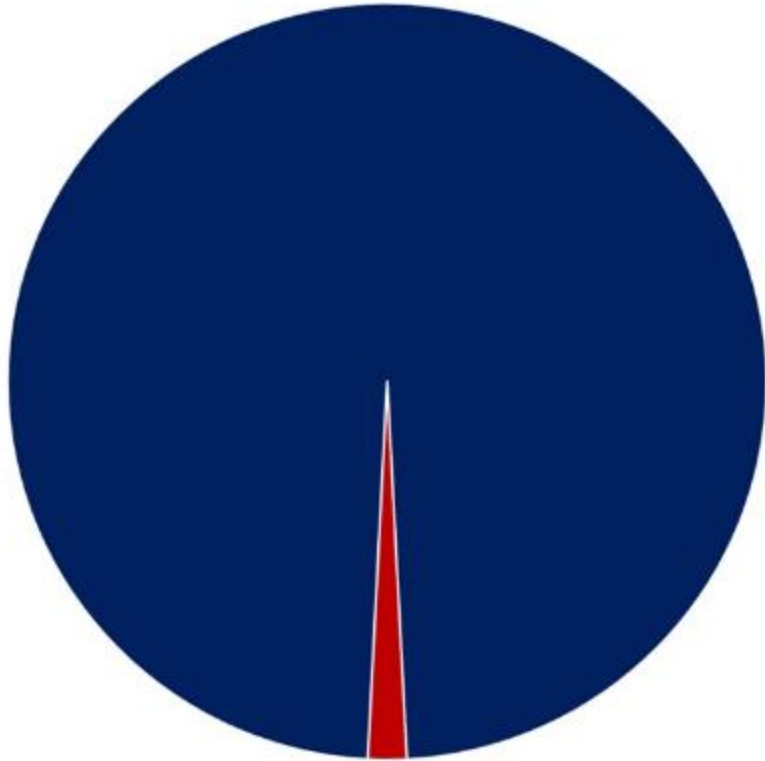
... except Canada!



Public coverage of health care costs in Canada

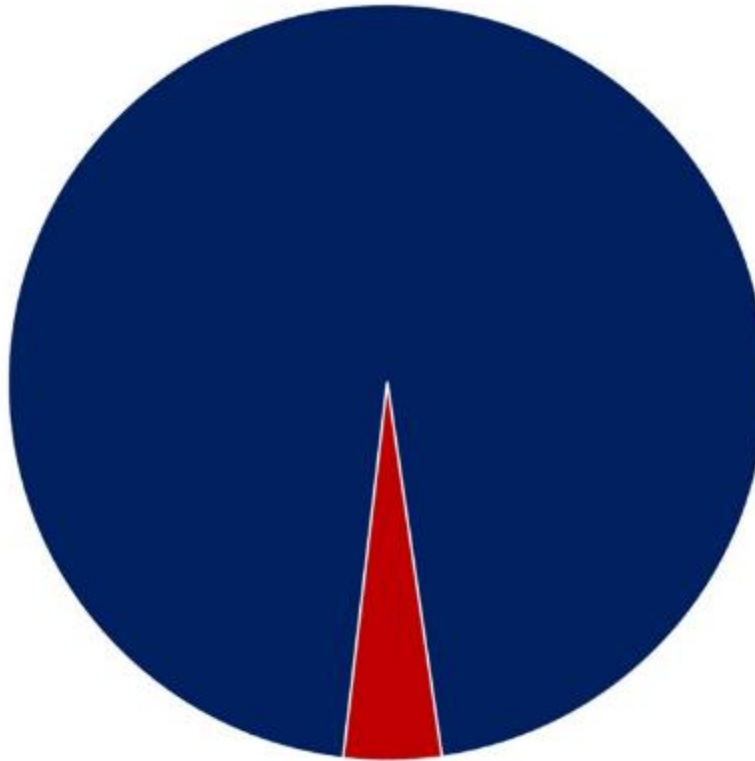
Medical Care

98%



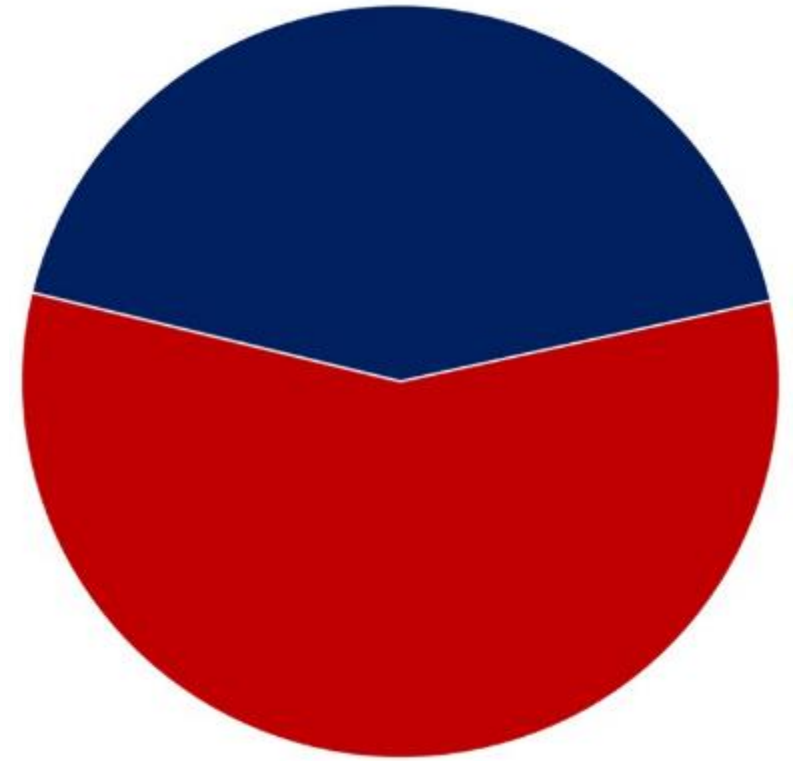
Hospital Care

96%



Prescriptions

43%



Pharmacare was part of the original plan



1957



1966



Next

There are **114** different
public drug plans in Canada



There *thousands* of different
private drug plans in Canada



A high-speed photograph of water splashing, creating numerous droplets and bubbles against a dark background. The water is captured in mid-air, creating a dynamic and textured scene.

**One in five Canadians
isn't covered for Rx they need**



Why should older Canadians care?



How do we compare to
universal pharmacare systems?



Not well



Outcomes of interest

Access to medicines

Cost of the system

Financial equity / risk

Countries to compare

Australia

New Zealand

Norway

Sweden

United Kingdom

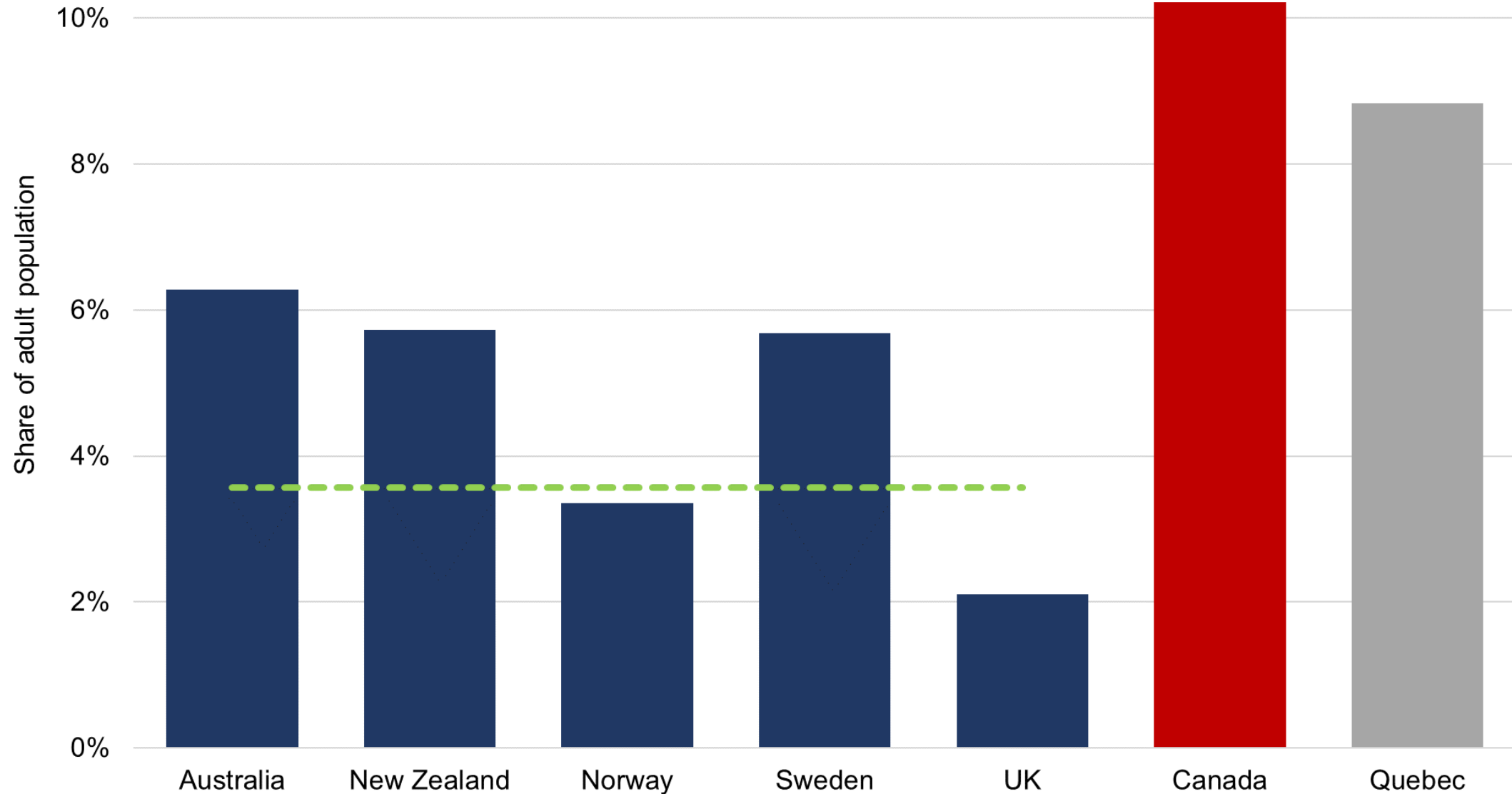
Canada

Quebec

Access to Medicines



Share of adult population that skips Rx because of cost



**\$1 billion
wasted**

+

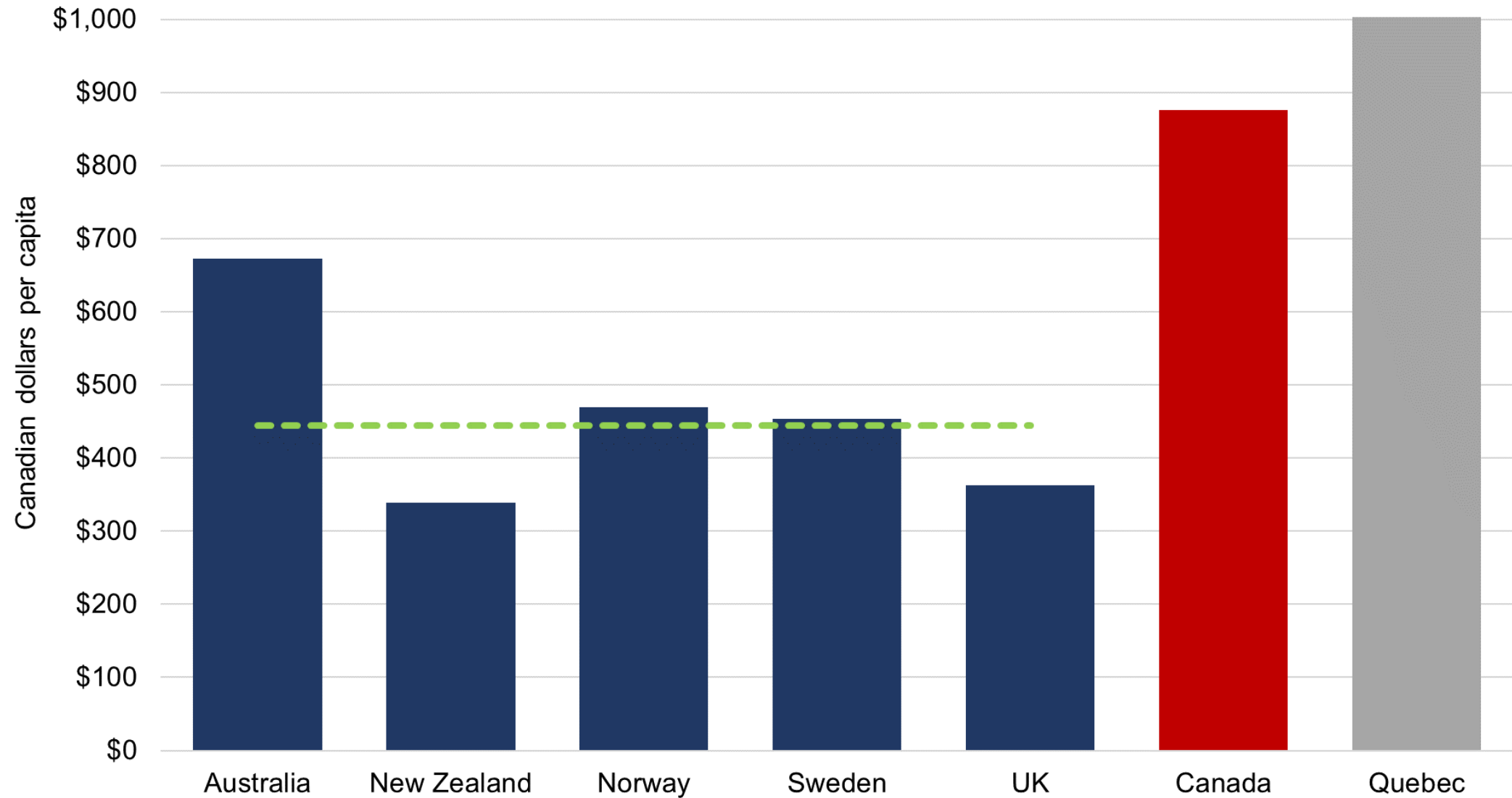
**300-700
lives lost**



Cost of System



Total per capita spending on prescription drugs

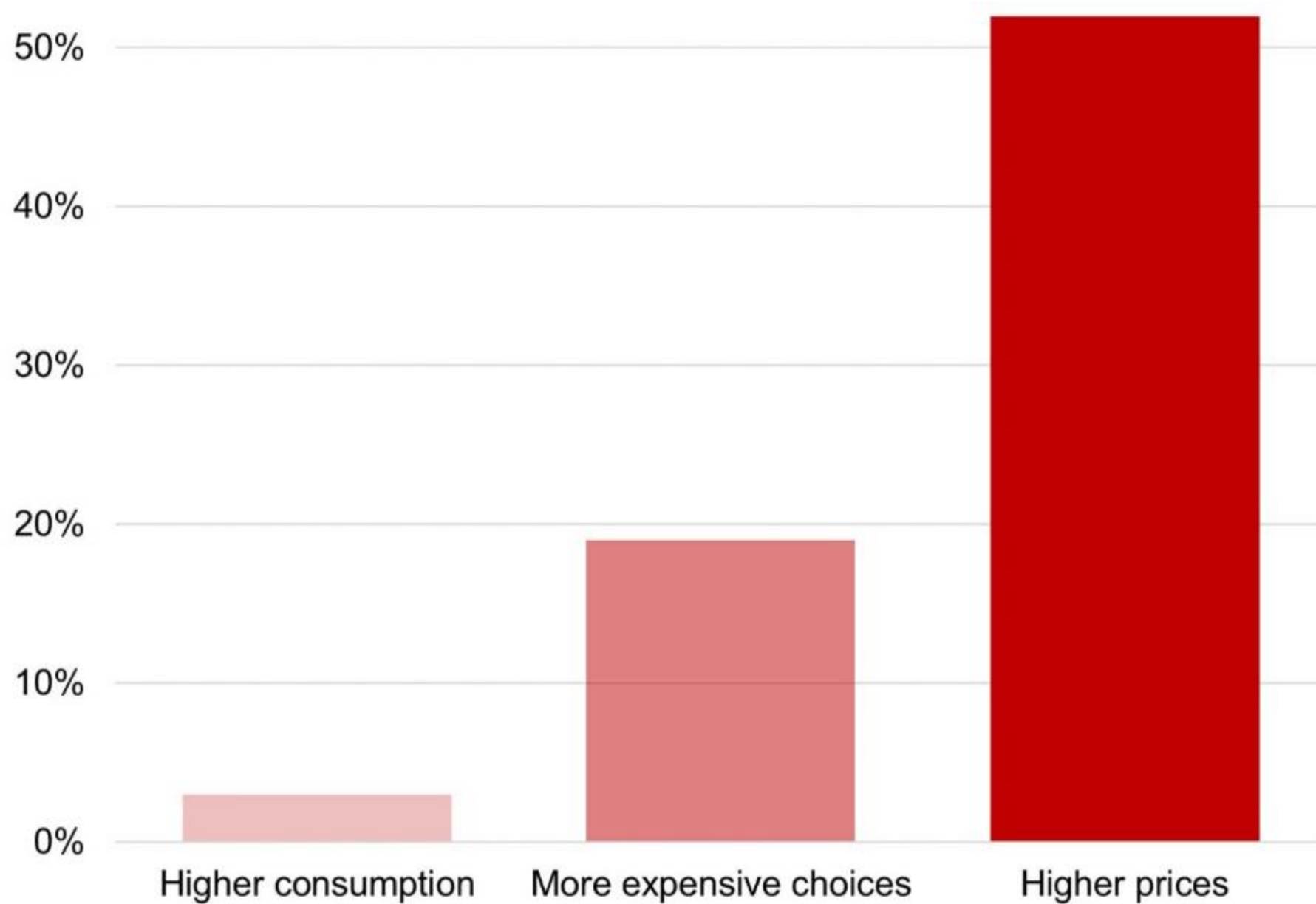


**\$7 billion
in savings**

=

**25 000
family docs**





Source: Morgan et al 2017a

Why Canada spends more than comparators

1 year of atorvastatin (Lipitor)

\$80 in Canada

\$9 in New Zealand

1 year of sertraline (Zoloft)

\$90 in Canada

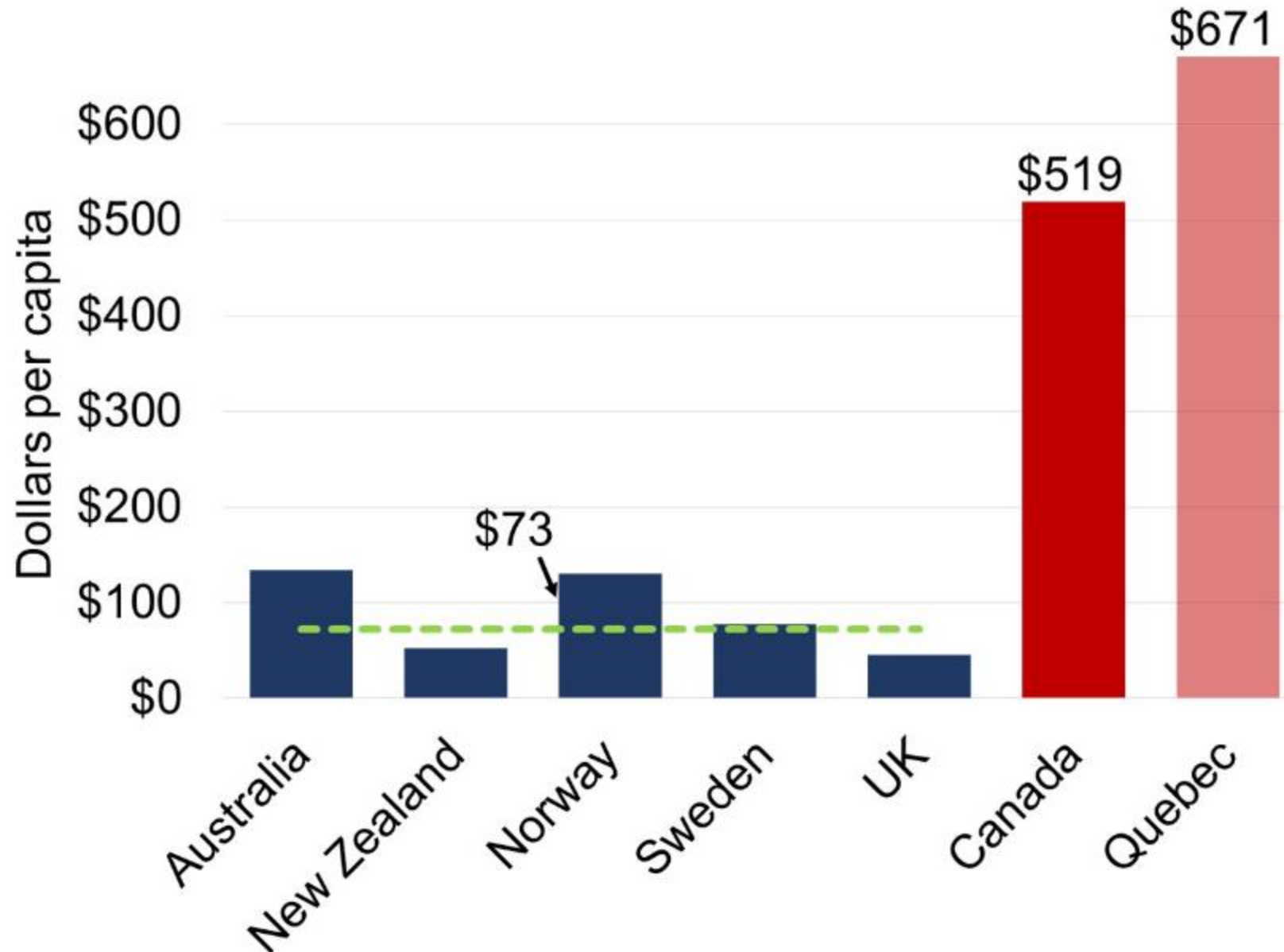
\$5 in New Zealand



Equity / Financial Risk



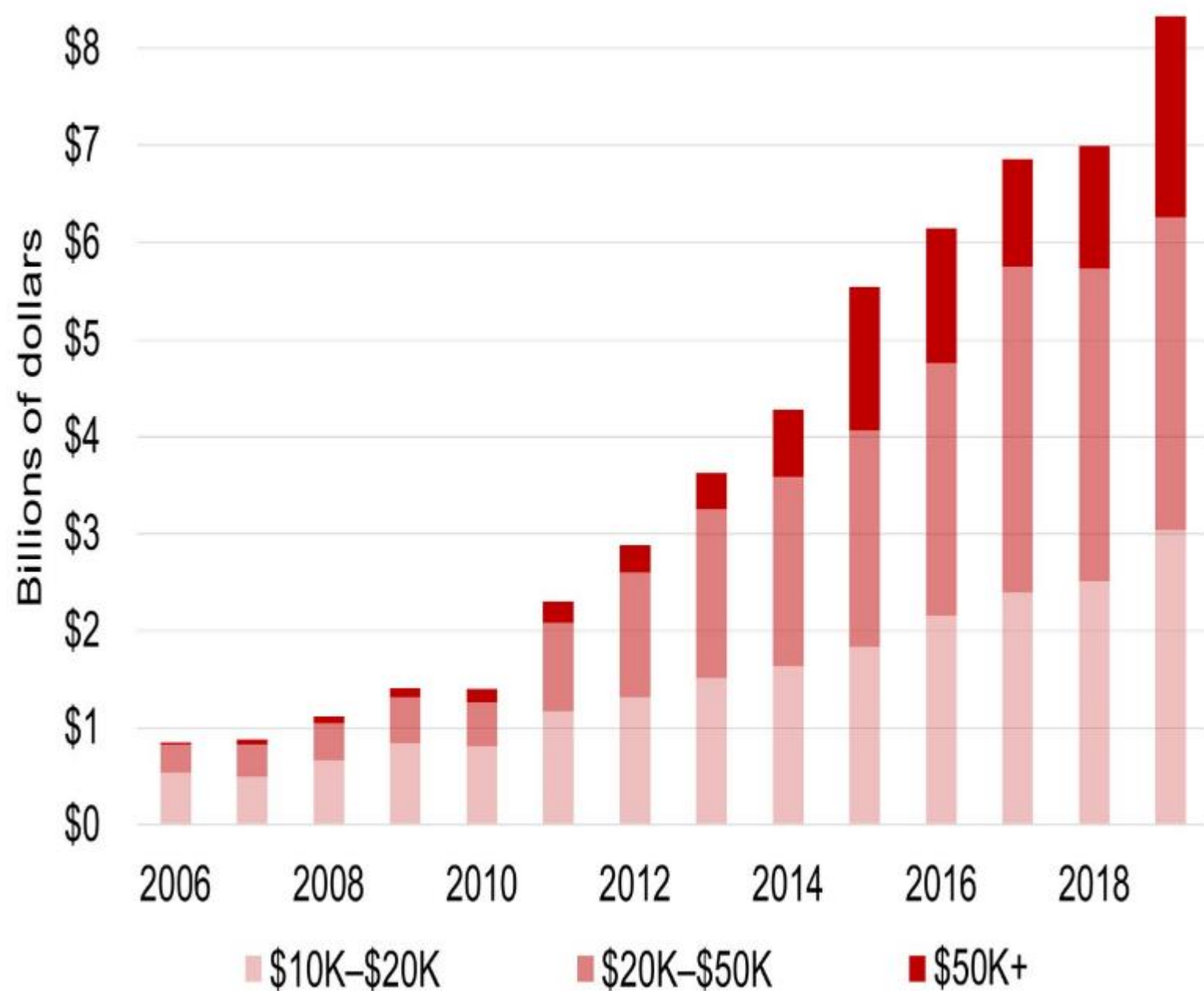
Prescription costs borne directly by households and employers



**729,000
Canadians**



1 in 100
=
33%



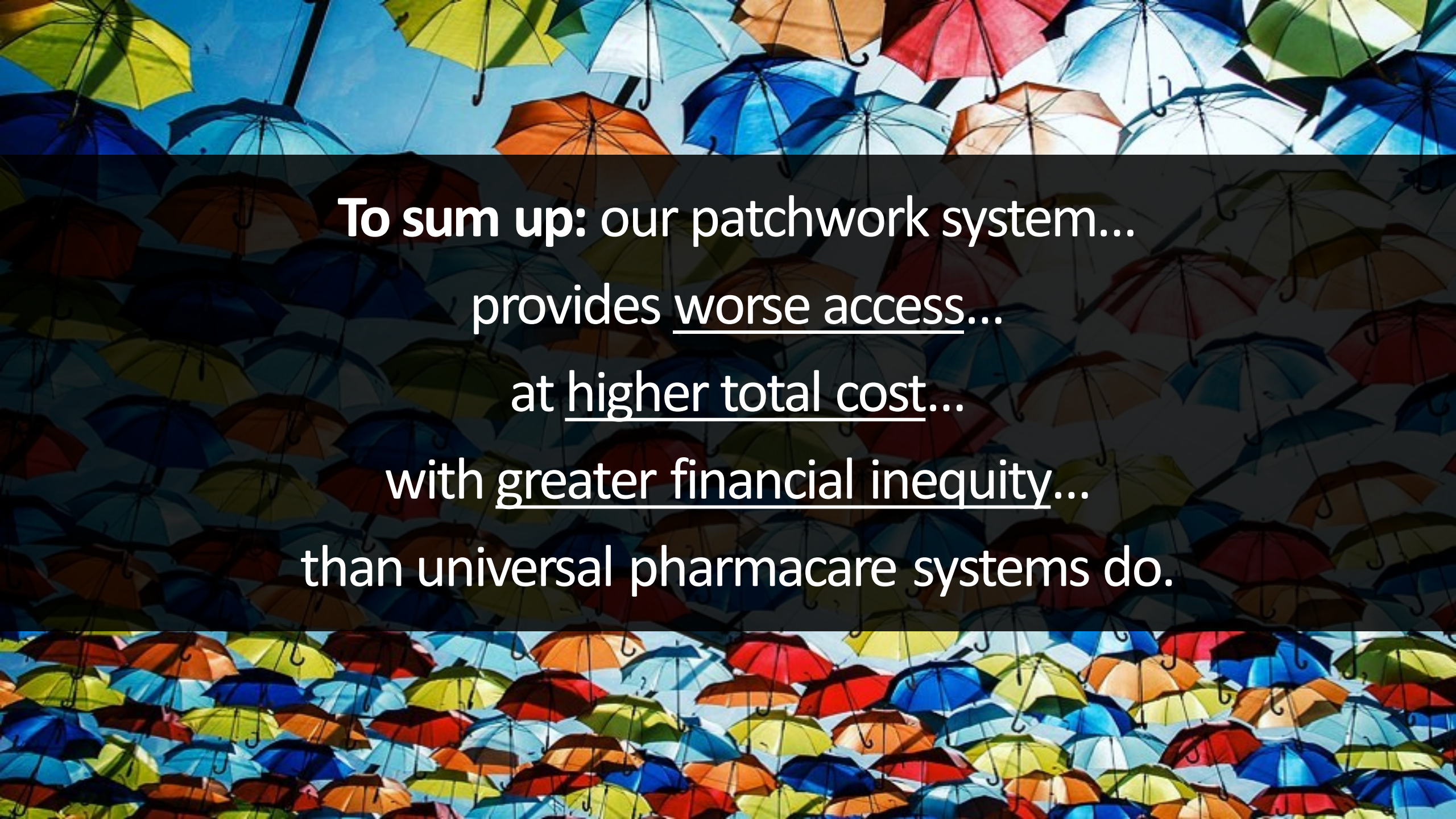
A quick note on appropriateness...



\$1.4 BILLION



**The annual cost
of potentially
inappropriate
prescribing to
older Canadians**



To sum up: our patchwork system...
provides worse access...
at higher total cost...
with greater financial inequity...
than universal pharmacare systems do.

Every high-income country
with a universal health
care system provides
universal coverage of
prescription drugs ...

... so can *Canada!*



It is not just me ... the jury is in!

Solution = universal, comprehensive, public pharmacare



1965 Royal Commission on Health Services (Hall)



1997 National Forum on Health



2002 Royal Commission on Future of HC in CA (Romanow)

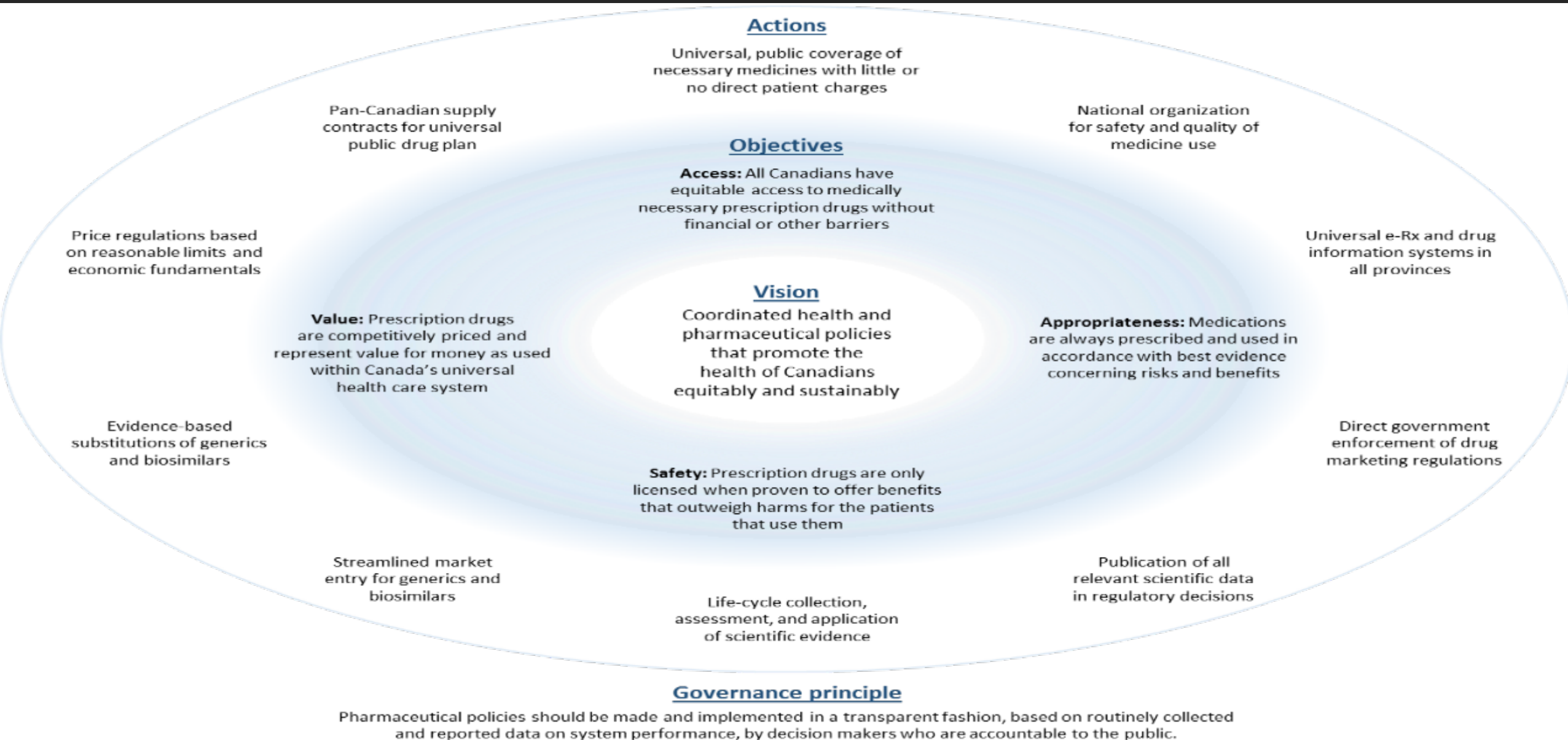


2018 Parliamentary Standing Committee



2019 Advisory Council on Implementation (Hoskins)

We have a detailed, pragmatic plan



We know what it will cost ... actually, save!

Provinces: \$0 in new spending

Feds: \$15 billion in new spending

Private sector: \$20+ billion in savings



Overall impact for Canada: \$5+ billion in savings



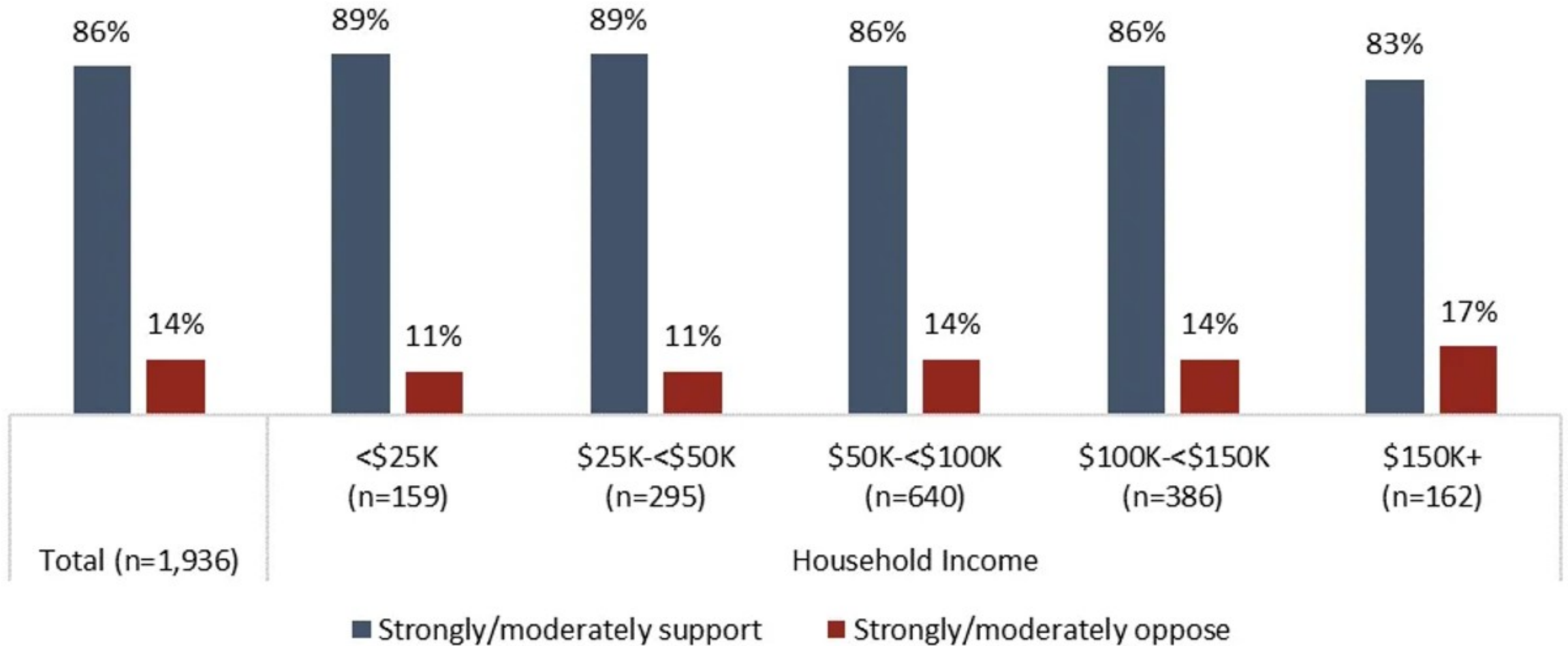
So, it's not pharmacare or other national policies;
it's pharmacare and other policies!



What about the politics of National Pharmacare?




Canadians overwhelmingly support national pharmacare



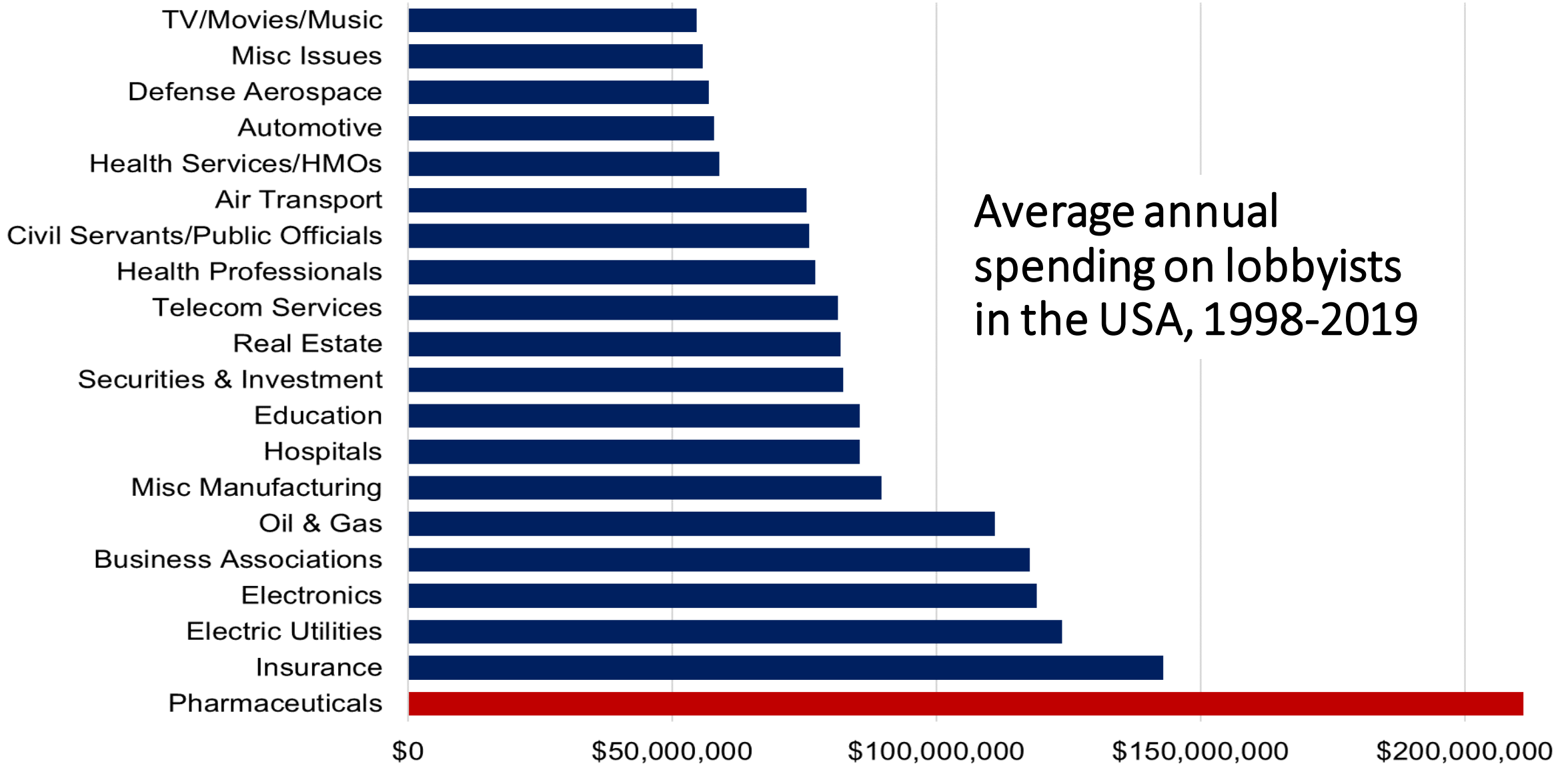
Won't conservative premiers kill national pharmacare?



A close-up, low-angle shot of the Canadian flag waving in the wind against a bright blue sky with light, wispy clouds. The flag's red and white colors are vibrant, and the maple leaf is clearly visible. A dark, semi-transparent horizontal band is superimposed across the middle of the image, serving as a background for the text.

They'll try.
But conservative premiers opposed Medicare too!

Won't big pharma kill national pharmacare?



Average annual
spending on lobbyists
in the USA, 1998-2019

They'll try.
But you can stop them.



Canadian experts in health care
and public policy support
universal, comprehensive,
public pharmacare



A blurred background image featuring medical supplies. In the upper right, there is a yellow and orange blister pack of pills. Below it, several individual pills are visible, including two red and white capsules and one blue and white capsule. In the lower left, a blue clipboard with a silver clip is holding a white piece of paper. On the paper, the large black 'Rx' symbol is visible, indicating a prescription. The overall scene is out of focus, with the central text being the primary subject.

Thank you!