

Controlling Government Healthcare Costs or Expanding Coverage: Can We Do Both?

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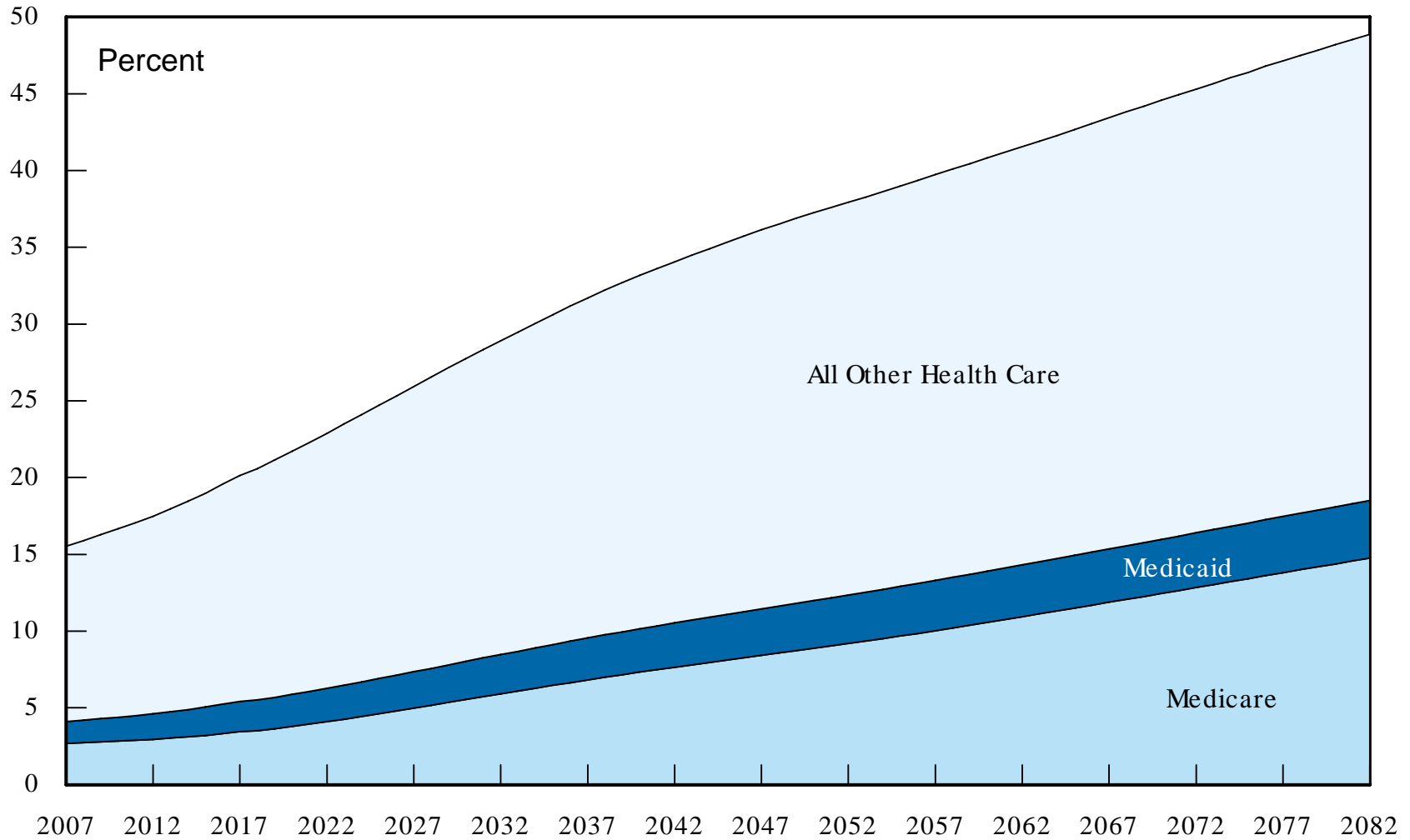
National Association for Business Economics

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3 Challenges for Health Reform

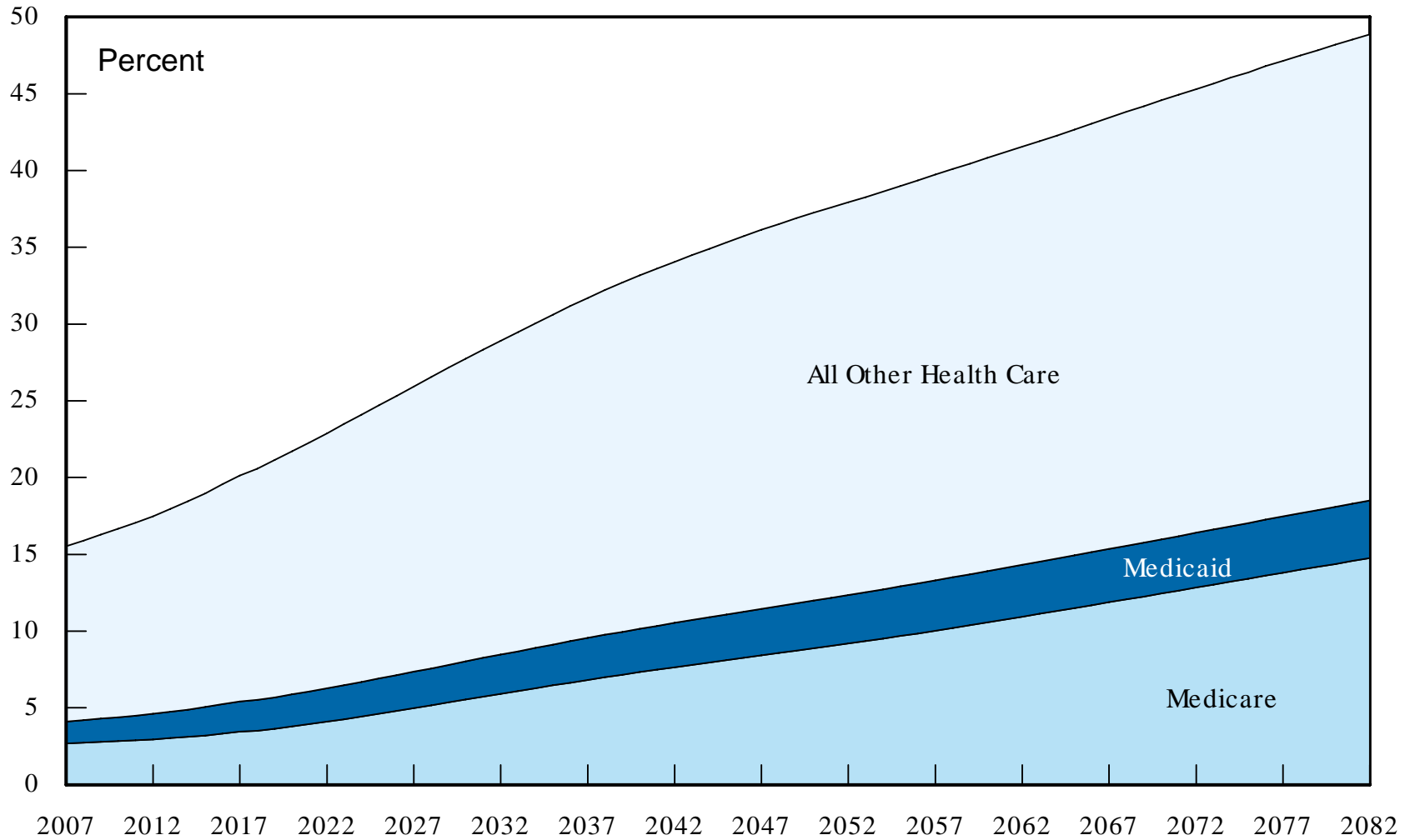
- High and rapidly growing health care costs
- Uninsured and underinsured residents
- Mediocre quality of care on average

Projected Spending on Health Care as a Percentage of GDP



Source: Congressional Budget Office

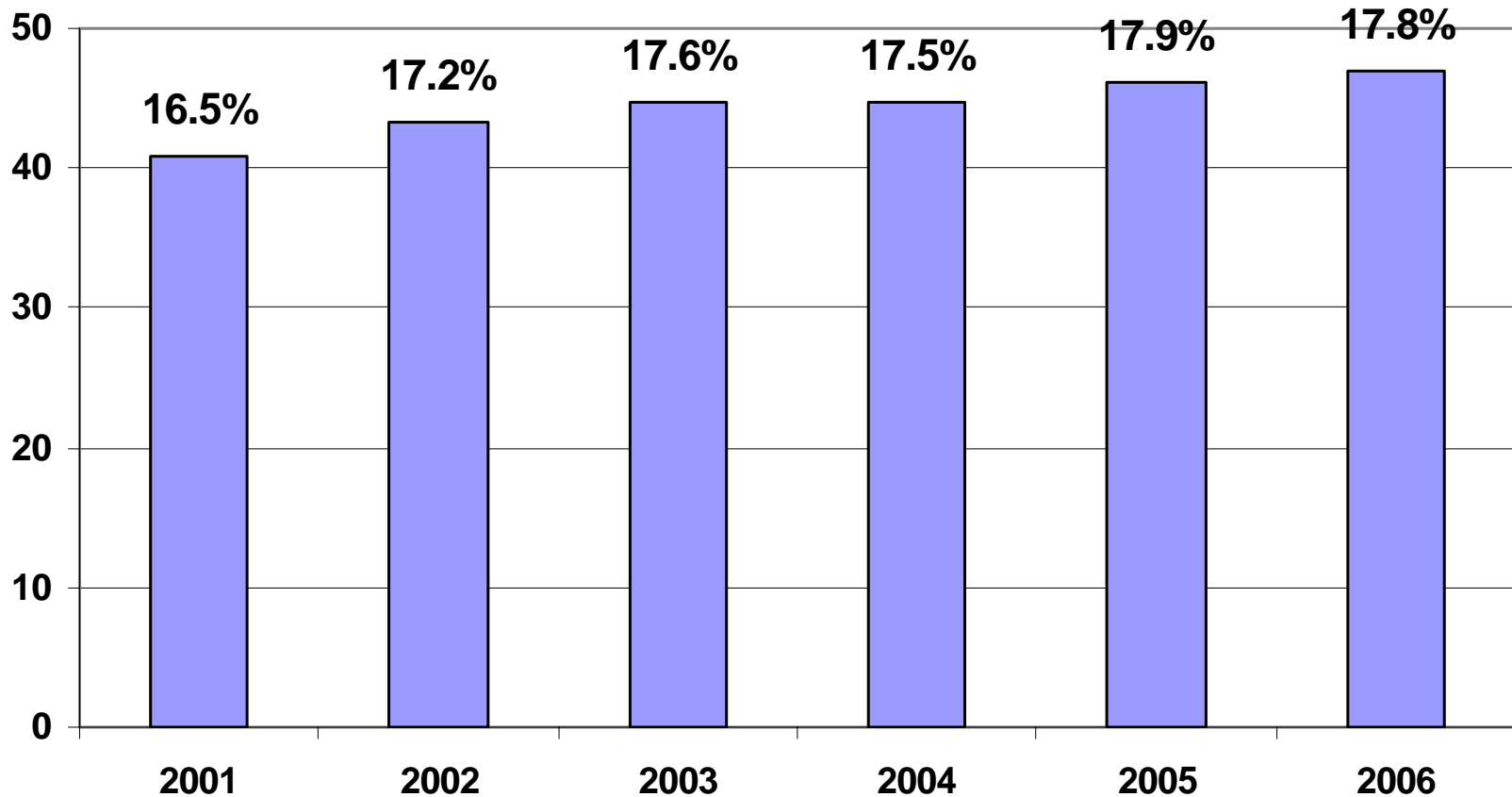
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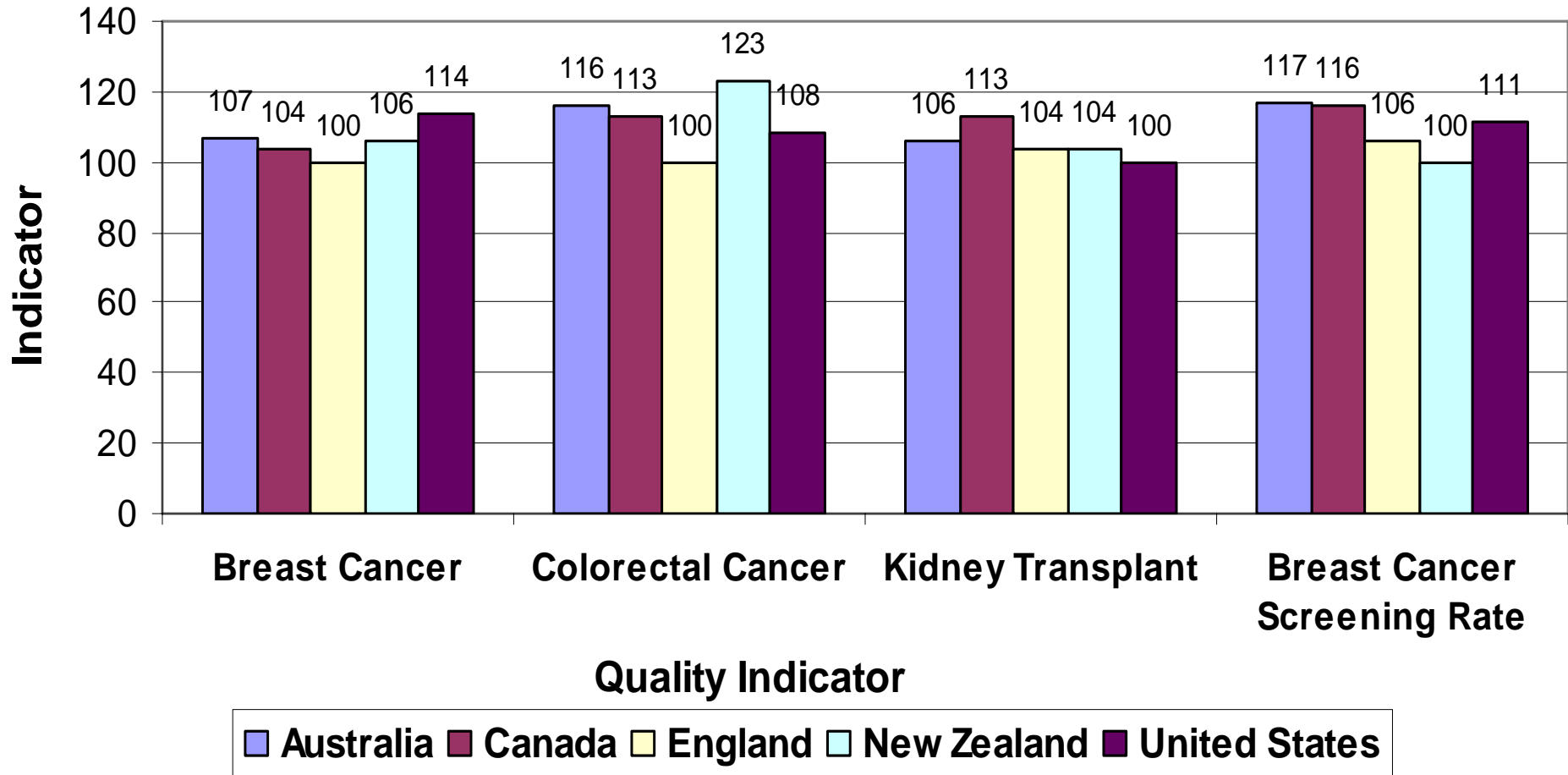
The Number and Share of Americans Under 65 who are Uninsured

Americans Under 65 Uninsured,
in Millions (% of Total Population
Above Bar)



Source: Census Bureau, March CPS

Standardized Performance on Quality Indicators in Five Countries

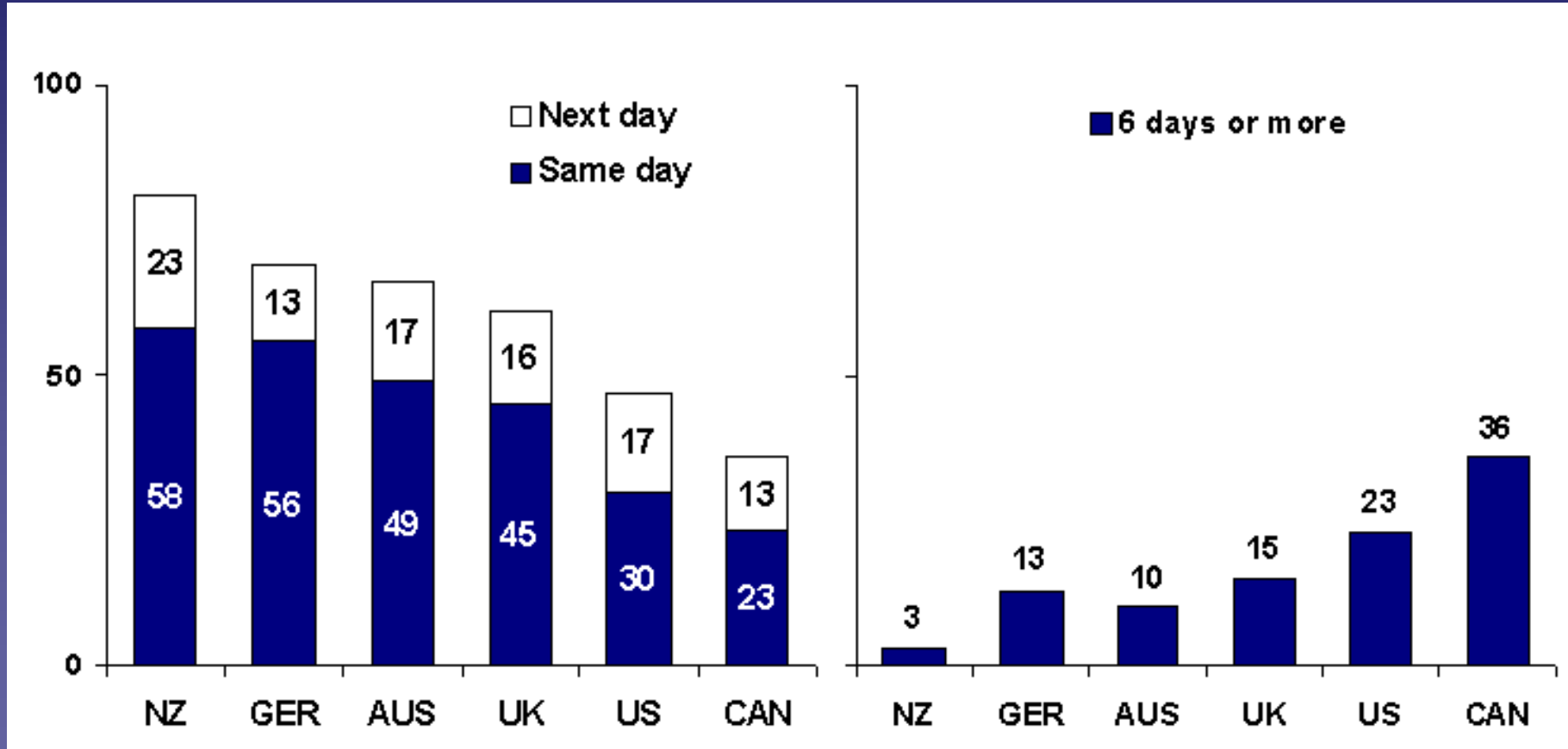


Source: Hussey, et al. (2004). "How Does the Quality of Care Compare in Five Countries". *Health Affairs*. 23(3)

Waiting Time to See Doctor When Sick or Need Medical Attention, Sicker Adults in Six Countries, 2005

Last time you were sick or needed medical attention, how quickly could you get an appointment to see a doctor?

Percent of adults



Source: Commonwealth Fund National Scorecard on U.S. Health System Performance, 2006.

3 Paths to a Reformed System

- **Expand coverage first**
- **Reign in cost growth first**
- **Tackle coverage and cost growth simultaneously**

Four Dimensions to Consider

- **Moral**
- **Economic**
- **Political**
- **Practical**

Goals of Health Reform

What is the most important goal of health reform ?

Making health care and health insurance more affordable	38%
Expanding coverage	34%
Improving the quality of care	14%

Source: The Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: February 2-3 2009

