

# **HEALTH CARE**

## **NEWS AND INFORMATION**

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*Health Care: News and Information* is a service of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) to help our readers stay fully informed about the latest health care issues as we work to advance a high-quality health care system.

Jim Edwards, Editor

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## **American Health Care Yields Greater Cancer Survival Rates**

**As debate continues on how to improve the nation's health care, it shouldn't go unnoticed that a recent study shows that America's health care system is better for cancer survival.**

- Cancer survival rates are better in the United States than in Europe, where most countries have government-run health systems.
- The study revealing these important findings appeared in the journal, *Lancet Oncology*.
- Other studies provide similar findings, with respect to Canadian cancer deaths, early diagnosis in various nations and access to new drug therapies. Former N.Y. Lieutenant Governor Betsy McCaughey has compiled the information from these reports.

**Cancer patients fare far better in America than in government-run health countries.**

- Sixty-three percent of American women survive cancer five years after diagnosis. Just 56 percent of European women have the same chances.
- American men stand a 66 percent chance of five-year cancer survival. European men have only a 47 percent survival rate.
- The British medical system produces results even below the European average. The five-year cancer survival rate is 45 percent for British men and 53 percent for British women.
- Cancer survival scores higher averages for 13 of 16 specific cancers in the United States over European rates.
- For five types of cancer, American survival rates are 90 percent or better. By contrast, Europe has that kind of success with only one cancer. The five cancers with that marked success in the U.S. are breast, testicular, prostate, skin melanoma and thyroid. Europe's lone success is with testicular cancer.

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- Another study confirmed that American cancer survival is better than Canada's. American men

average four percentage points higher, and American women average an extra three percentage points.

**The facts show that America's market-based health care system produces better chances for early diagnosis and broader access to new drugs.**

- McCaughey found that in spite of our uninsured problem, "cancer patients in the United States are most likely to be screened regularly, and once diagnosed, have the fastest access to treatment."
- American women are more likely to get screened for cervical cancer every two years. Women in government-run health system nations including Great Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand are less likely to be screened regularly.
- Some 85 percent of American working-age women have pap tests. Only 58 percent of British women receive the same preventive care. For mammograms, 84 percent of U.S. women 50-64 years old regularly get screened, compared with 63 percent of British women.
- Cancer patients in America, Switzerland, France and Austria had the greatest access to 67 new cancer drugs over patients in other nations. One study attributed half the improvement in U.S. cancer survival rates in the 1990s to new oncology drugs.

*The Healthcare Leadership Council, representing the innovators in each sector of the health care industry, is committed to advancing a market-based health care system that values innovation and provides affordable, high-quality care.*

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