

shared values and personal responsibility, a sense of self-respect grounded in respect for the rights of others, and a sense of purpose, rooted in commitment and opportunity.

Violence and drugs have no place in our schools. Without taking on the appearance of armed camps, we must secure our campuses. Furthermore, we must bring the full educational resources of our schools to bear in the war on crime and drug use. Schools offer an unmatched opportunity to break the cycle of despair in the lives of those at greatest risk.

- Training teachers, counselors, and school administrators in mediating disputes, cooling conflicts, and comforting victims;
- Developing curricula that discourage violence and promote self-respect and respect for others;
- Initiating school-police partnerships; and
- Securing school buildings with safety measures such as video cameras, safety doors, and metal detectors.

Democrats are also fighting for a comprehensive drug education program. If we reach every student at every school at an early age, we can keep the impressionable child from becoming the adolescent drug abuser and the adult criminal.

## Drug Treatment

If we can educate and rehabilitate adult drug abusers, we can reduce the number of drug-related crimes. However, the waiting period for most existing treatment facilities is intolerably long. In 1989, a survey conducted by the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors estimated that 66,766 Americans were currently wait-listed for drug treatment. Of that number, 50 percent had been waiting for 30 days or more. As long as people with drug problems cannot get the treatment they need when they need it, the war on drugs

will not be won.

In 1991, 70 percent of state prisoners had a history of drug abuse, and 50 percent had a problem requiring intensive treatment. Of that 50 percent with severe drug problems—325,000 prisoners—only 82,000 were actually receiving treatment while 15,000 were on waiting lists, and the remainder were not receiving any real treatment at all.

If prisoners break an addiction to drugs, they can turn away from a life of crime. Drug treatment saves the taxpayers the cost of keeping a career criminal in prison, and, more importantly, it saves innocent citizens from being robbed or even murdered by addicts who turn to violent crime to support their habits.

## Stopping Drug Traffic: A National Security Priority

Because the drug trade is a thriving international business, winning the war on drugs must be a top priority of American foreign policy.

American foreign policy must advance American interests and values. Those who conduct our foreign policy should never forget the plight of the American baby born addicted to cocaine, the teenager trading his life away for drugs, the widow of a neighborhood cop slain by a drug dealer, or the senior citizen mugged by a desperate addict.

Democrats will:

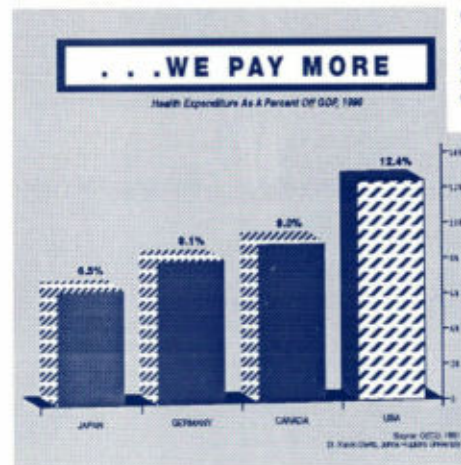
- Vigorously enforce laws linking foreign aid to curtailment of the drug trade;
- Support and expand initiatives to stop the growth of drugs right at the source; and
- Develop and maintain a strong and effective system of stopping drug traffic at our borders.

## THE COST OF HEALTH CARE

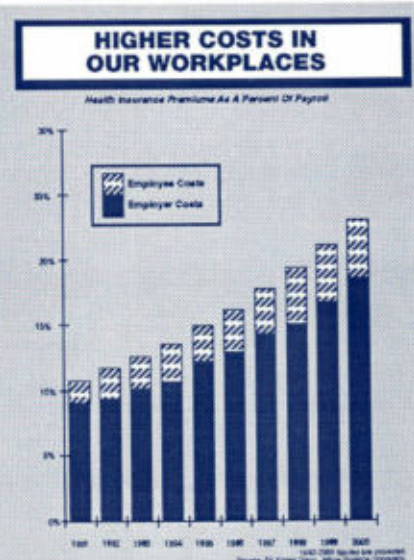
America spends more on health care than any other nation. In 1992 the United States will spend \$817 billion dollars, or 14 percent of the Gross National Product, on health care, an increase of 11 percent in just one year. That is expected to grow to more than 20 percent of the nation's GNP by the year 2000. Already, the ever-expanding share of the GNP consumed by health care costs in America is higher than the percentage spent in other countries.

The costs of basic medical services increased by 250 percent between 1980 and 1990, and are projected to increase another 600% by the year 2000. These rising costs are reflected in typical, everyday services that individuals should receive. The average cost of a general physical examination, for example, rose from \$31 in 1980 to \$64 in 1988. The cost of an appendectomy jumped from \$407 to \$832 during the same period.

Businesses are struggling to cope with rapidly increasing insurance premiums. Already, health care costs consume more than 11% of total payroll. By the year 2000, that figure will more than double—almost one out of every four payroll dollars will be spent on health care. The current system leaves no good options for our



Per capita health care costs in the United States doubled from 1980 to 1990. These costs are much lower for America's toughest economic competitors. For example, in 1989 the U.S. spent twice what Japan and Germany spent and three times what the United Kingdom spent, on a per capita basis.

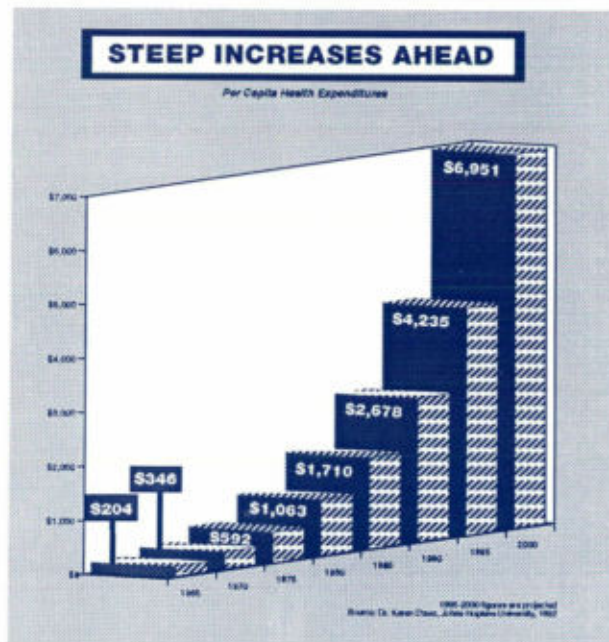




nation's businesses. They can curtail coverage, reduce other benefits, cut wages, lay off workers, or pass costs on to consumers.

The rapidly increasing costs of health care have also strained the budgets of state governments. States purchase health care coverage for their own employees, and they cover health services for some poor people through Medicaid. Because the cost of health care that states buy has been rising faster than the revenues of the states, budgets have been overwhelmed.

Due to the prolonged economic downturn, larger numbers of uninsured and unemployed people have turned to state programs for health care, exacerbating their budget woes. As states struggle to balance their budgets, they must cut services to residents and businesses. Only comprehensive change that pursues effective cost containment will relieve the tremendous financial pressure currently being felt by the states.



**Under the current system, costs will increase substantially – and both employers and employees will foot the bill.**

## ON THE FRONTLINES

STATEMENT OF NEIL CARR, PHILADELPHIA POLICE OFFICER, IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, REVEALING HOW A RECENT CALL FOR ASSISTANCE TURNED VIOLENT:

*"Upon pulling up, I observed two officers being fired upon with what appeared to be Uzi-type weapons from only a few feet distance... The one male who ran in our direction carried a TEC-9. He was firing at us. The TEC-9 that this male had was loaded with a 30-round clip of 9 mm bullets..."*

*"There was 60 rounds of semiautomatic and full automatic casings at the scene... There was a MAC-10, MAC-11, Uzi, TEC-9, and a .380 semiautomatic pistol... I was using a six-shooter."*

*"I have been a police officer ... for 22 years. I know there is an amount of risk in police work. But weaponry we're facing out there every day from criminals in the street is something that is used by an army in battle. There is no question that we're outgunned."*

In a recent Gallup poll, eighty-seven percent of Americans favored a national law requiring a seven-day waiting period before a handgun could be purchased in order to determine whether the prospective buyer has been convicted of a felony or is mentally ill. Democrats support restrictions on the purchase of firearms that will not infringe on the legitimate rights of sportsmen and other law-abiding citizens. This commonsense approach also includes an outright ban on non-sporting assault weapons.

We need to make effective use of the resources the federal government already has at its disposal. Democrats propose that the federal government:

- Use the forfeited assets of criminals and drug dealers to repay victims and help finance the war on crime and drugs;
- Convert excess military bases into prisons;
- Coordinate information on criminal records collected by various government agencies;
- Develop and use new technologies, such as DNA analysis, to catch and prosecute criminals; and
- Use civil remedies, such as evictions and restraining orders to disrupt drug dealing.

America can win the war on crime and drugs, if we make full use of all means, both conventional and non-conventional, at our disposal.

### Making Every School Drug-free and Gun-free

Our future is determined by what happens in our schools. We must safeguard our campuses as havens for education, to ensure that students leave behind the world of mean streets and broken homes while they are in class. Our schools must instill a sense of citizenship based on





We must make our communities safe again. Tough talk is not enough. We must enlist parents to provide moral guidance and discipline; teachers to give their students a sense of their civic responsibility; students to take full advantage of educational opportunities; and businesses to form more partnerships with schools in their communities.

Government must also fulfill its obligation: preventing and punishing crime. We must ensure that our police departments are fully staffed and have the latest equipment. One "cop on the beat" does more to prevent crime and instill a sense of security than ten police cruisers rushing to the scene after a criminal has struck.

For the violent criminal, there must be the certainty of swift and severe punishment. And when 70 percent of all state detainees and 47 percent of all federal inmates are drug abusers, we must insist that prisoners be freed from their drug addiction before they are freed to walk our streets.

Democrats champion effective innovations in law enforcement that promote partnerships between the police and the community.

- "Police Corps" modeled on the ROTC program to provide college scholarships to young people who agree to serve 4 years as police officers. This could put an additional 100,000 new police officers on the street.

- "Cop on the Beat" to take officers off the desk and out of a cruiser and put them back on the streets and into the communities to develop stronger, more effective partnerships between police and citizens

- "Neighborhood Crime Watch" to promote neighborhood awareness and enlist ordinary citizens in reducing criminal activity. Civic groups communicate neighborhood concerns to local officials and request civic amenities that discourage crime and reassure law-abiding citizens.

*The number of "hardcore" users, those who use the drug at least once a week, rose from 606,000 in 1990 to 855,000 in 1991 — a 29 percent increase. Meanwhile, "casual" cocaine use rose by 18 percent.*

zens, from street lights that work to clutter-free parks.

- More prosecutors, judges, and prison cells to ease the burden on a criminal justice system that often puts violent criminals back on the street before their victims are released from the hospital.

Removing violent criminals from society is just the first step. For nonviolent offenders, Democrats encourage the use of alternative punishment when it makes sense for the community. In 1990, the average spending per federal and state inmate was almost \$17,000. For non-violent, non-habitual offenders — for instance, a first-time drug user — boot camps help instill self-discipline, teach sound personal values, and offer a chance to choose a life of productive, law-abiding citizenship, while saving the community thousands of dollars.

Preventing crime also means keeping dangerous firearms out of the hands of criminals, and severely punishing crimes committed with guns.

When police officers find themselves outgunned on city streets, reasonable and constitutional restrictions on firearms are an idea whose time has come. Americans demand action — now — to keep our communities from becoming free-fire zones.

## ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

**A**ll Americans should have access to basic health care services at an affordable price. Unfortunately, access to

health care is an unfulfilled promise for millions of Americans. An estimated 34 to 37 million Americans have no health insurance. And, an additional 60 million, more than one in four Americans, will be without health insurance sometime in the next two years. Virtually every American is at risk of having benefits reduced or out-of-pocket expenses increased.

There are many misconceptions about the uninsured. Over 70% are working parents and their children. One in five work for very large corporations that do not provide insurance. Half are individuals who work for themselves or work for small firms. In both cases, the rapid increase in health care costs has priced insurance out of reach of many individuals and many small businesses.

Too often, small businesses are excluded from health coverage because of the nature of the work, the rate of claims, or the administrative costs. Too often, bad, but expensive, health care is the sad ramification of that lack of access. Those who are not insured delay seeking care. They do not have access to preventative services. They are less likely to receive simple and inexpensive tests that could detect an illness or condition in its earliest treatable stages. The results are a less healthy America and a more costly and wasteful health system.

In the 1980s, the proportion of American pre-schoolers immunized against routine childhood diseases fell below 50 percent. The United States now ranks 17th among nations in the proportion of its infants immunized against po-

### MOST UNINSURED AMERICANS WORK

(Estimated by Employment Status, Total 34 million Total)



### Small Businesses Feel The Squeeze

Erica Zeidenberg, Vice President of Soft Press, a software development company in Oakland, California, in Congressional testimony:

"My insurance company cancelled my health insurance when I was in my sixth month of pregnancy. My husband and I had always paid our bills, and had no unusual medical claims. Shockingly, this cancellation is not only legal, it is fully supported by existing state and national policies."

"Because pregnancy is considered a pre-existing condition, I could not get new insurance while I was pregnant. (They) offered a very limited conversion plan that cost an incredible \$19,000 a year. I considered inducing labor before the deadline."

"Unfortunately, at this time we cannot find an affordable business health insurance plan, and will not be able to offer one to new employees as we expand our business... it is time for government to act."



lio. And, after several decades of decline, tuberculosis rates are rising sharply. Nationwide, they rose 10 percent last year alone, with even sharper increases in urban areas. In New York City, for example, the total number of tuberculosis cases rose by almost 40 percent in 1991.

Health problems that can be easily treated at early stages require more expensive care when they are allowed to become life-threatening. In our cities and our rural areas, too many Americans do not have access to a primary physician or a clinic for immunizations, routine care, or treatment. Increasingly, first medical intervention occurs in overcrowded hospital emergency rooms.

The cost of treating the uninsured is passed on by hospitals and physicians as part of their overhead. When the uninsured are treated through the emergency room door in later stages of an illness rather than in a doctor's office in the early stages, everyone pays in the form of higher insurance premiums, higher charges for health services, and higher taxes.

Not only is this deleterious to the health of the patient, it unfairly burdens the core businesses and workers that are full participants in the health care system. In 1989 alone, hospitals recorded \$11 billion for free care and bad debt, much of which was financed by increased charges to insured patients. And this expensive cost shifting is increasing rapidly.

In 1990, 42.8 million Americans were medically under-served — 9 million of whom were women of child-bearing age. At the same time, our infant mortality rate is the highest in the industrialized world — more than twice that of Japan.

But the problem of access is not only the plight of the uninsured; increasingly, it is a problem for Americans who *have* insurance. As the century draws to a close, the biggest worry of many Americans is that they may lose health benefits, or their coverage may be curtailed. So few working Americans can afford to lose their

### EMPLOYERS LARGE & SMALL CAN'T AFFORD INSURANCE

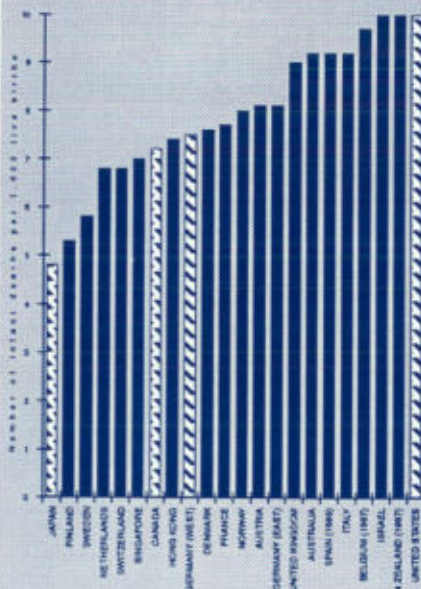
Distribution Of Uninsured Workers By Firm Size, 1989



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 1990

### THE REAL COST

U.S. Infant Mortality Ranks High



Source: United Nations Population Office, 1988

## RESULTS, NOT RHETORIC: THE WAR ON CRIME AND DRUGS

Government's first responsibility is to protect its citizens against violent crime. No community worthy of the name can survive when families barricade themselves behind locked doors, children are afraid to play in the parks, and couples no longer stroll in the streets or venture outside after dark. And, when parents fear their children will abandon their futures for the drugs dealers peddle on street

corners or in school yards, the American Dream is in danger.

From cities to suburbs to rural communities, more Americans feel their quality of life is imperiled by violent crime and drug abuse.

The threat to our lives, our youth, and our communities was intensified by two tragedies that marked the 1980s — the "crack" cocaine epidemic which made drugs less expensive and more lethal, and the "drive-by shooting" which all too often put innocent bystanders in the sightlines of illegally-possessioned weapons suitable for the battlefield.

Yet Republicans continue to stall action on the Omnibus Crime Control Act.

The United States has achieved the dubious distinction of being the world's leading consumer of cocaine. After three years of the Bush Administration's "War on Drugs," the outcome is clear: a Dunkirk, not a D-Day.

Violent crime and drug abuse have torn at our social fabric in different ways:

■ First, there is no community where there is no family to provide the framework of moral guidance.

■ Second, there is no community when our schools are not secure. According to the National crime survey, almost three million crimes occur in or near our schools every year.

■ Third, there is no community without a strong commercial foundation.

■ 55 percent of Americans believe that crime in their community has been getting worse.

■ For the first time since 1982, not even one American in ten thinks crime is declining in their neighborhood.

### AND THEY'RE RIGHT

■ Violent crime increased 21 percent in the first three years of the Bush administration, an average of 7 percent annually.

■ 1991 was the seventh straight year in which the number of crimes rose, and mid-sized cities bore the brunt with an astonishing 8 percent increase.