

# Drugs Affordable

**Transcript**

Do you think Americans should have to pay more than Europeans for the same drugs? I don't mind paying more than people in the poorest areas of the world, but what about Norway? Luxembourg? And other high-income countries?

A recent study shows us that overall, we pay almost 3 times as much as people in other countries of the OECD.

In another survey, a majority of Americans said they are at least somewhat worried about whether they can afford prescription drugs for themselves or their families. This includes people who have health insurance.

The pharmaceutical companies have been telling us their high prices are necessary to fund research. Is that true? And if so, why aren't the Europeans paying to fund research?

Dr. Jerry Avorn of Harvard Medical School says drug prices have very little relation to how much the pharmaceutical companies spend on development. A large part of the cost of drug research is done in academic institutions and paid for by tax money or philanthropy. The money from those high drug prices is used mostly for advertising and patent manipulation.

Every other developed country regulates drug prices to make them affordable. Is there any GOOD reason we're not doing that?