

## General US CAM statistics

- Worldwide, only ten to thirty percent of people use conventional medicine, 70 to 90 percent use alternative medicine. (NIH. *Alternative Medicine: Expanding Medical Horizons*, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1993, xv.)
- In 2000 the American government allocated \$68 million to research in alternative medicine through the National Institutes of Health and Public Health Services created the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) with a budget of \$100 million. (*Newsweek*, Dec. 2, 2002.)
- The American Medical Association (AMA), in Resolution #514, “is encouraging its members to become better informed regarding alternative (complementary) medicine and to participate in appropriate studies of it.” (AMA Resolution #514, “Alternative (Complementary) Medicine,” Reference Committee E, 10-11.)
- Renowned hospitals, such as Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, have created integrated medical clinics in their facilities. 15 percent of all U.S. hospitals now offer CAM therapies as part of their treatment programs. *Newsweek*, Dec. 2, 2002.
- Almost two-thirds of American medical schools—among them Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Duke, University of San Francisco, Johns Hopkins, and Georgetown Universities—now offer coursework in CAM methods. (Fact Sheet #1, “Alternative Medical Courses Taught at U.S. Medical Schools,” The Richard and Hinda Rosenthal Center for Alternative/Complementary Medicine, and *Newsweek*, Dec. 2 2003)
- Many alternative approaches have been scientifically proven to be less invasive, less dangerous, more effective, and more economical than conventional ones treating the same disorder
- Mutual of Omaha (a US medical insurer) says it saves about \$6.50 for every dollar it spends covering nonstandard (read: alternative) treatments. (“Unconventional Claims,” *Vegetarian Times*, October 1995, 27.)
- Seventy-four percent of the American population desire a more natural approach to healthcare. (Deirdre O’Conner, N.D., *The Naturopathic Model of Primary Care Natural Medicine*. Presentation at “Integrating Managed Care & Alternative Medicine” conference, San Francisco, CA, December 1, 1995.)
- Of the one out of three Americans who have used alternative medicine, 84 percent said they would use it again. (David Eisenberg, M.D., “Unconventional Medicine in the United States,” *New England Journal of Medicine*, January 28, 1993, 246.) More recently *Newsweek* (Dec. 2, 2002) reported that in 2002 nearly half of all U.S. adults seek care outside the regular health system.
- Traditional Chinese medicine has been chosen by the World Health Organization for worldwide propagation to meet the healthcare needs of the twenty-first century. (Burton Goldberg, *Alternative Medicine: The Definitive Guide*, Future Medicine Publishing, 1993, 450)
- The U.S. government sponsors the use of acupuncture in drug rehabilitation programs. (William Collinge, *The American Holistic Health Association Complete Guide to Alternative Medicine*, Warner Books, 1996, 40.)
- One out of three drugs prescribed in Germany is a herb. (Donald J. Brown, N.D., *The Use of Herbal Medicine in a Clinical Setting*. Presentation at “Integrating Managed Care & Alternative Medicine” conference, San Francisco, CA, December 1995.)

- One out of every ten Americans is under the care of a chiropractor. (B. Hayes, *U.S. Survey of Insurers*, Government study, HEW, as reported by The American Chiropractic Association, Arlington, VA, November 1995.)
- In 1993, Americans spent an estimated \$1.5 billion on herbal remedies — ten times more than was spent on over-the-counter sleeping pills from grocery stores and drugstores. (Bill Gottlieb, *New Choices in Natural Healing*, Rodale Press, 1995, 3.)
- In 2002 Americans made more visits to unconventional healthcare providers (600 million) than to conventional doctors (388 million). *Newsweek*, Dec. 2, 2002
- 42.1 million Americans spent almost \$21.2 billion on unconventional care in 1998, 3/4 of that spent out of their own pockets (i.e. not from insurance or company schemes). (JAMA, 1998.) *Newsweek*, Dec. 2, 2002 reported the current figure to be \$30 billion.
- Twelve percent of Fortune 500 companies offer alternative medicine as part of their healthcare compensation packages. That number increased to eighteen percent by the end of 1996. (John Weeks, “Charting the Mainstream: A Review of Trends in the Dominant Medical System,” *Townsend Letter*, Port Townsend, Washington, February/March 1996, 38-39.)
- Half of all affiliated physicians surveyed by Duke University said that they would happily collaborate with CAM providers, *Newsweek*, Dec. 2, 2002.