ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Learning from international comparisons at the OECD

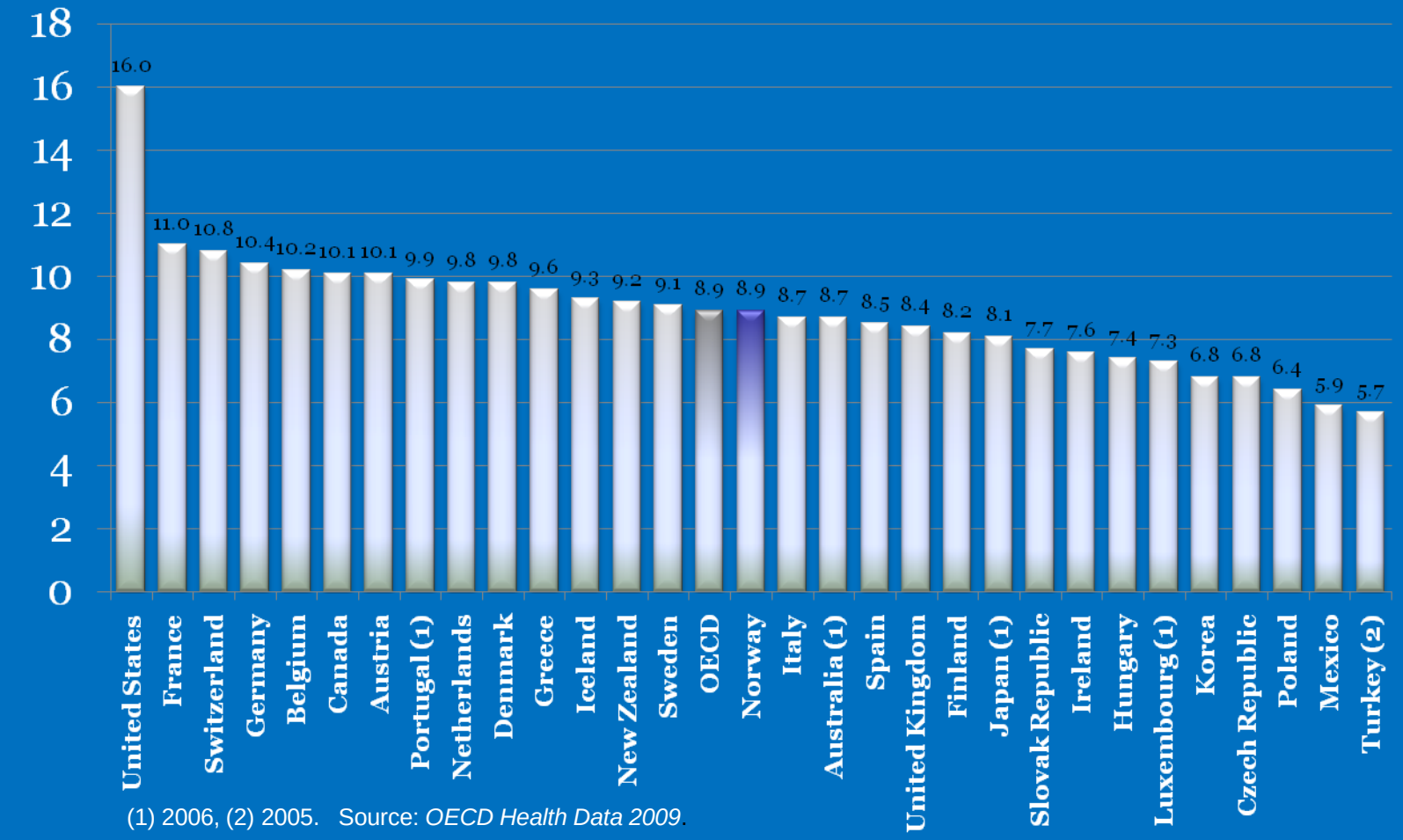
Achieving Efficiency Improvements in the health sector through Information and Communication Technologies

Elettra.Ronchi@oecd.org

Outline

- The mounting pressure on health systems ->a role for ICTs
- Overcoming the obstacles to effective implementation of ICTs
- A significant role for public policy

Health expenditure accounts for 9% of GDP (on average) up from 5% in 1970



(1) 2006, (2) 2005. Source: *OECD Health Data 2009*.

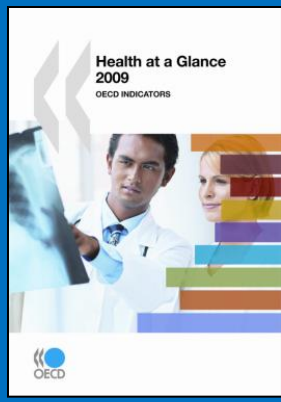
Is high spending a problem?

- **Not if benefits exceed the costs**

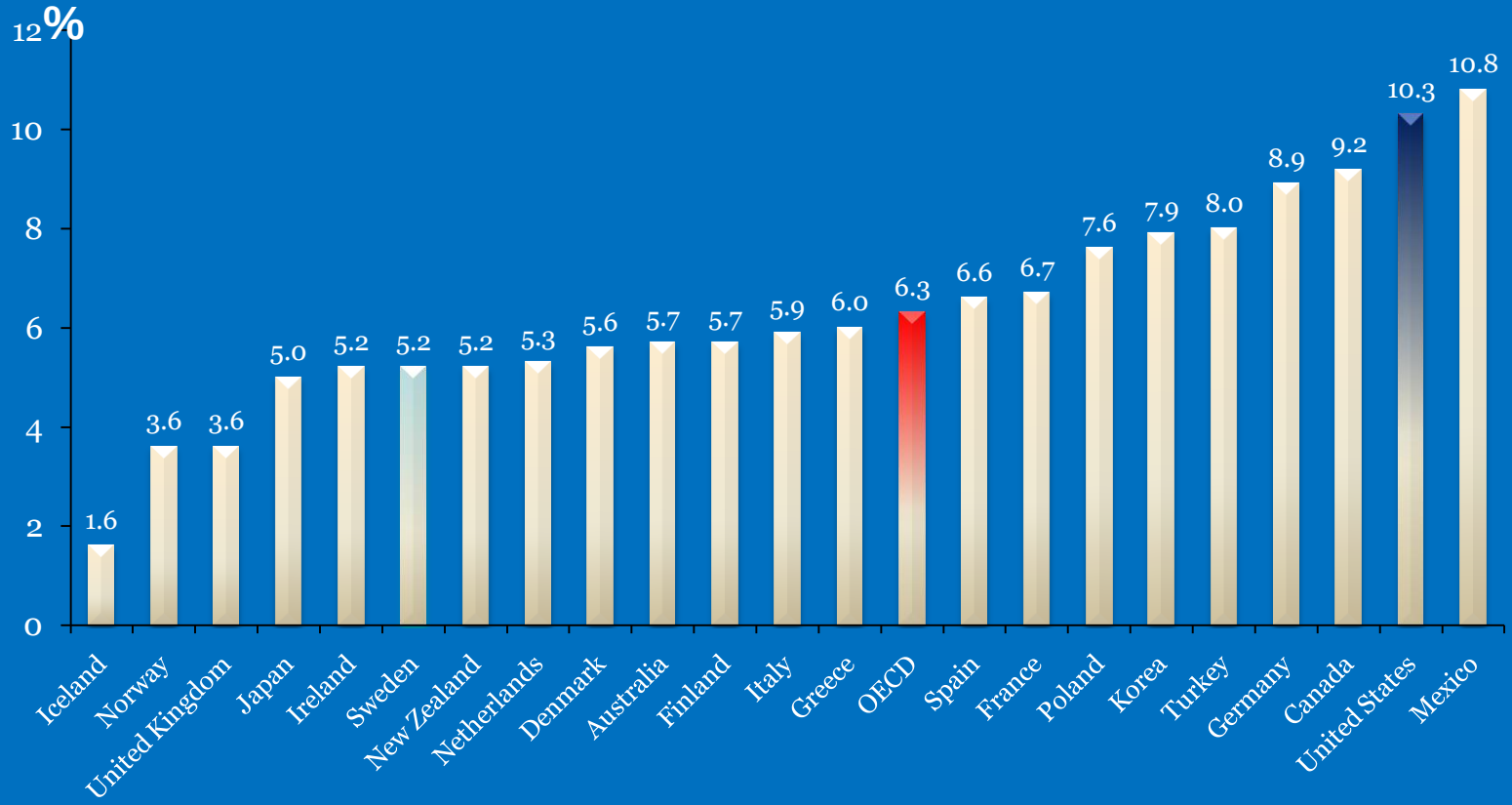
- **Main problems are:**

  - **Affordability: rising costs are increasing pressure on public budgets,**
  - **Sustainability: especially given aging populations and chronic diseases**
  - **Value for money- health systems have reserves to increase efficiency, i.e. to save money for the same level of health outcomes or achieve greater health gains for the same amount of money.**

The prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes is rising, due to population ageing but also to changes in lifestyle



Prevalence estimates of diabetes, adults aged 20-79 years, 2010



Source: International Diabetes Federation (IDF) (2009), "Diabetes Atlas, 4th edition".

Achieving efficiency improvements through ICTs: a significant role for public policy

- Improve incentives → changes in payment arrangements
- Support the development of systems for benchmarking improvement → establish reliable , comparable indicators
- Facilitate efficient “linkages” and safe exchange of information across the health care system → establish robust and coherent privacy protection- accelerate and steer interoperability efforts