

US marks four straight years of slowing health costs

January 6 2014, by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

President Barack Obama's health care law has divided the nation, but government experts are saying his first term produced historically low growth in health costs.

A report Monday from nonpartisan experts at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services concluded that 2012 was the fourth straight year the nation's [health care](#) tab grew at a more manageable pace—3.7 percent.

And the U.S. economy grew faster than health care, making it easier to pay the nation's medical bill.

America still spends a whole lot. Health care spending reached \$2.8 trillion in 2012. That averages out to \$8,915 for every man, woman and child.

While the White House sees vindication, it's too early to say if this is a lasting turnaround that Obama can claim as part of his legacy.

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