

**The Commonwealth Fund 1999  
International Health Policy Survey of  
the Elderly in Five Nations**

**Accompanies May/June 2000**

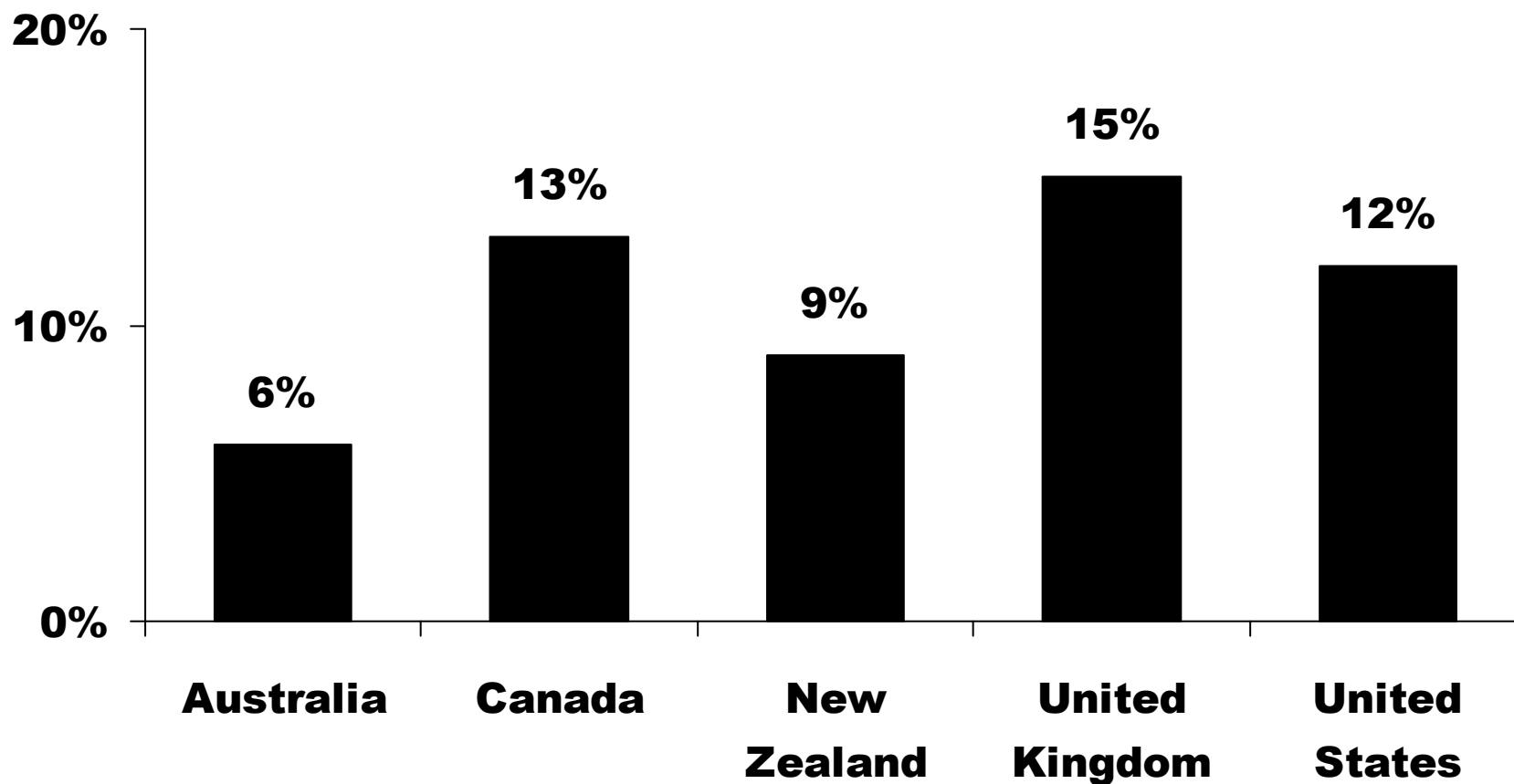
***Health Affairs* article**

**Charts Originally Presented at the 1999 International  
Symposium on Health Care Policy**

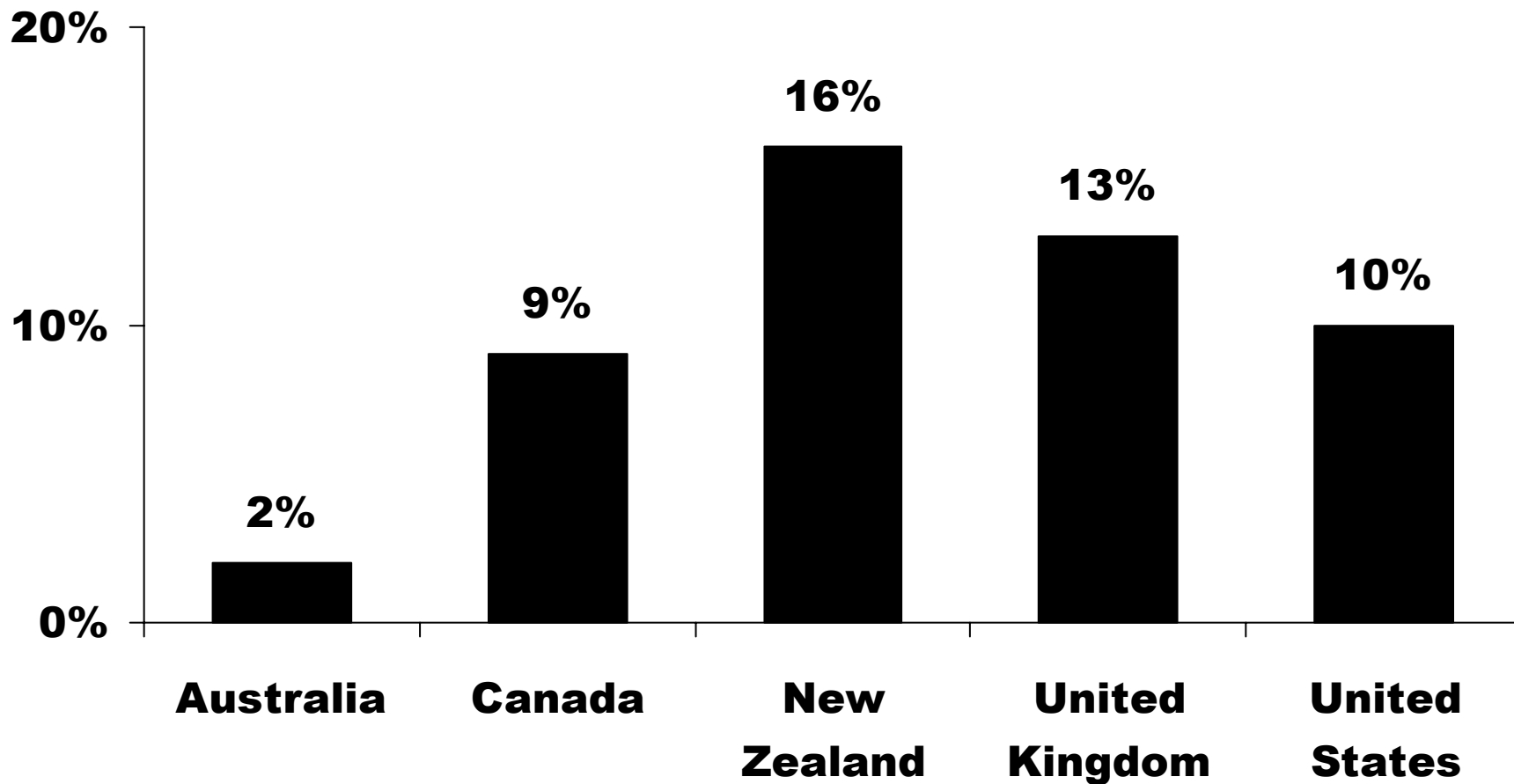
# **Experiences with Health Care: Access and Quality**

# Access to Needed Medical Care

Percent of the elderly who felt it was “extremely,” “very,” or “somewhat” difficult to get needed medical care

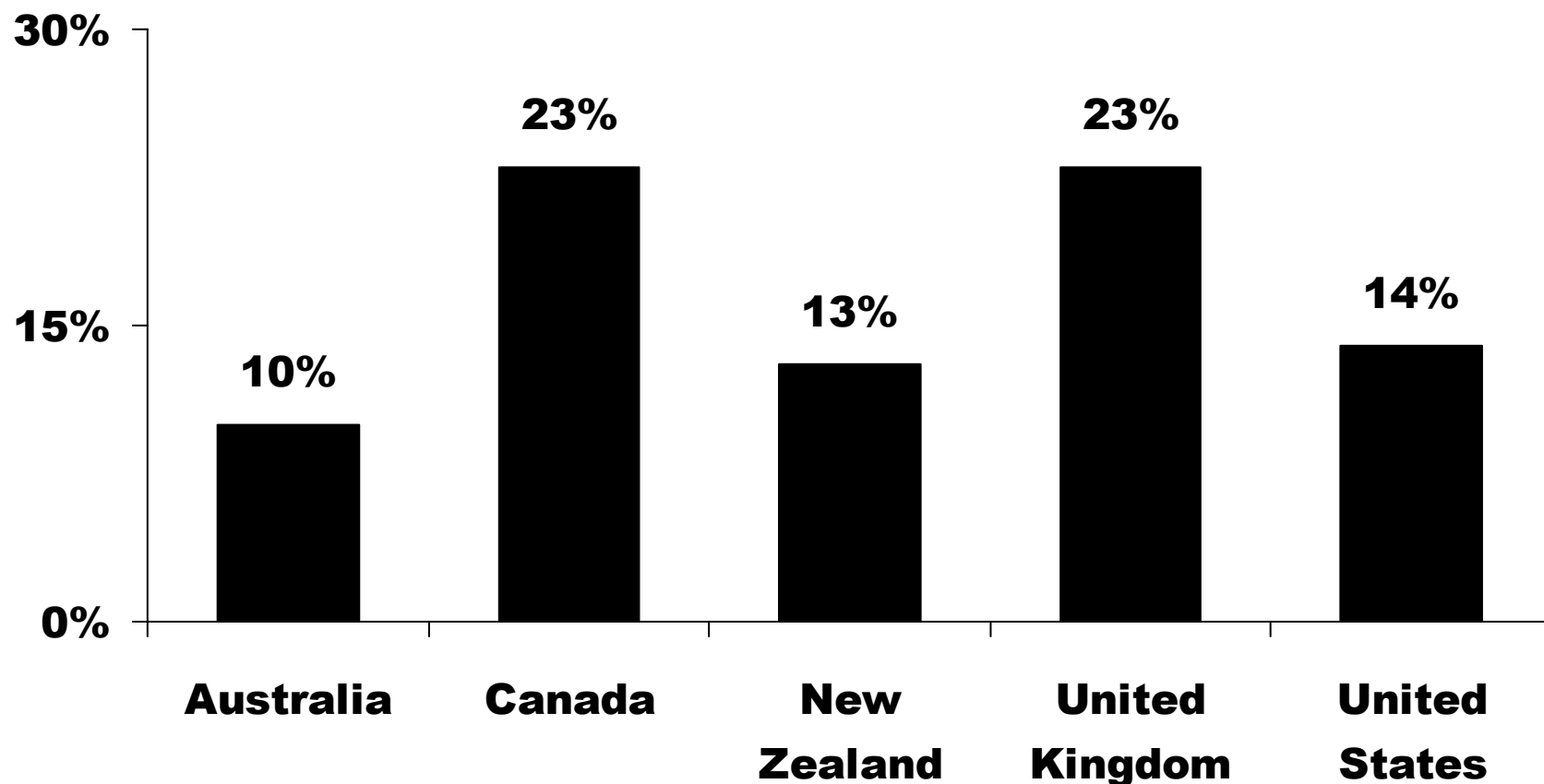


# Percent of the Elderly with No Doctor's Visit in the Past Year



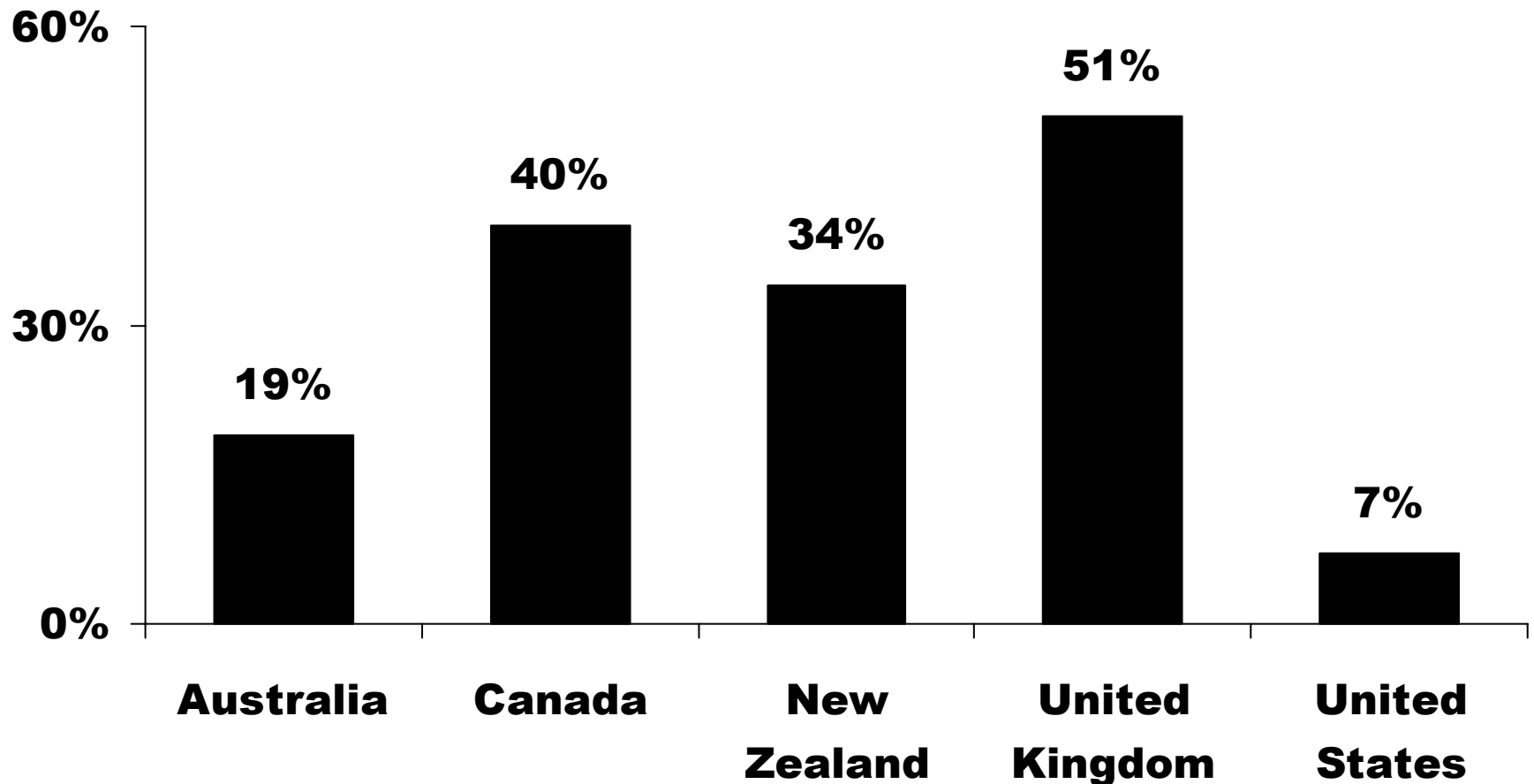
# Access to Specialists

Percent of the elderly who felt it was “extremely,” “very,” or “somewhat” difficult to see a specialist when needed



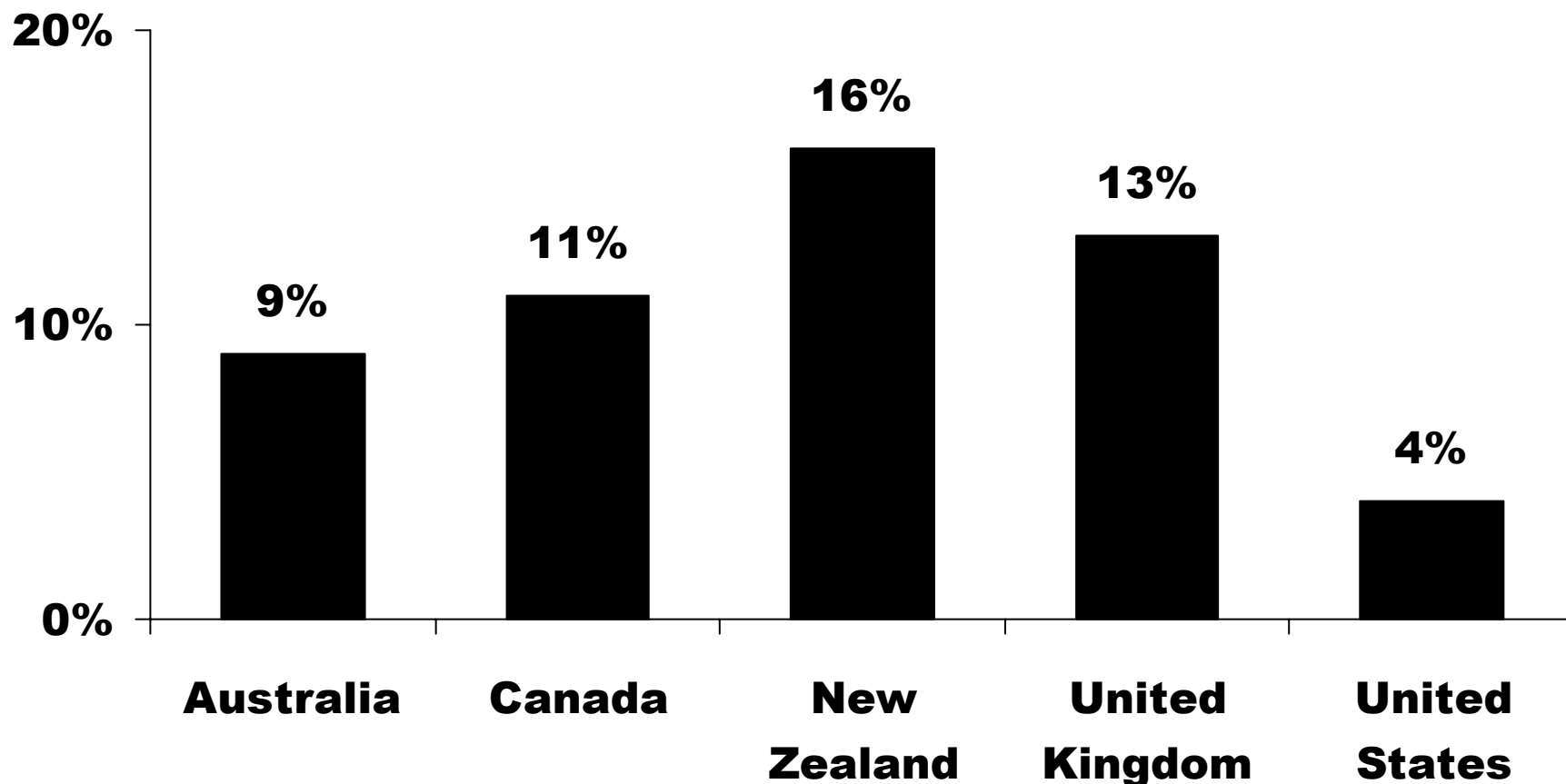
# Long Waits for Nonemergency Surgery

**Percent of the elderly who needed nonemergency surgery and waited five weeks or more**



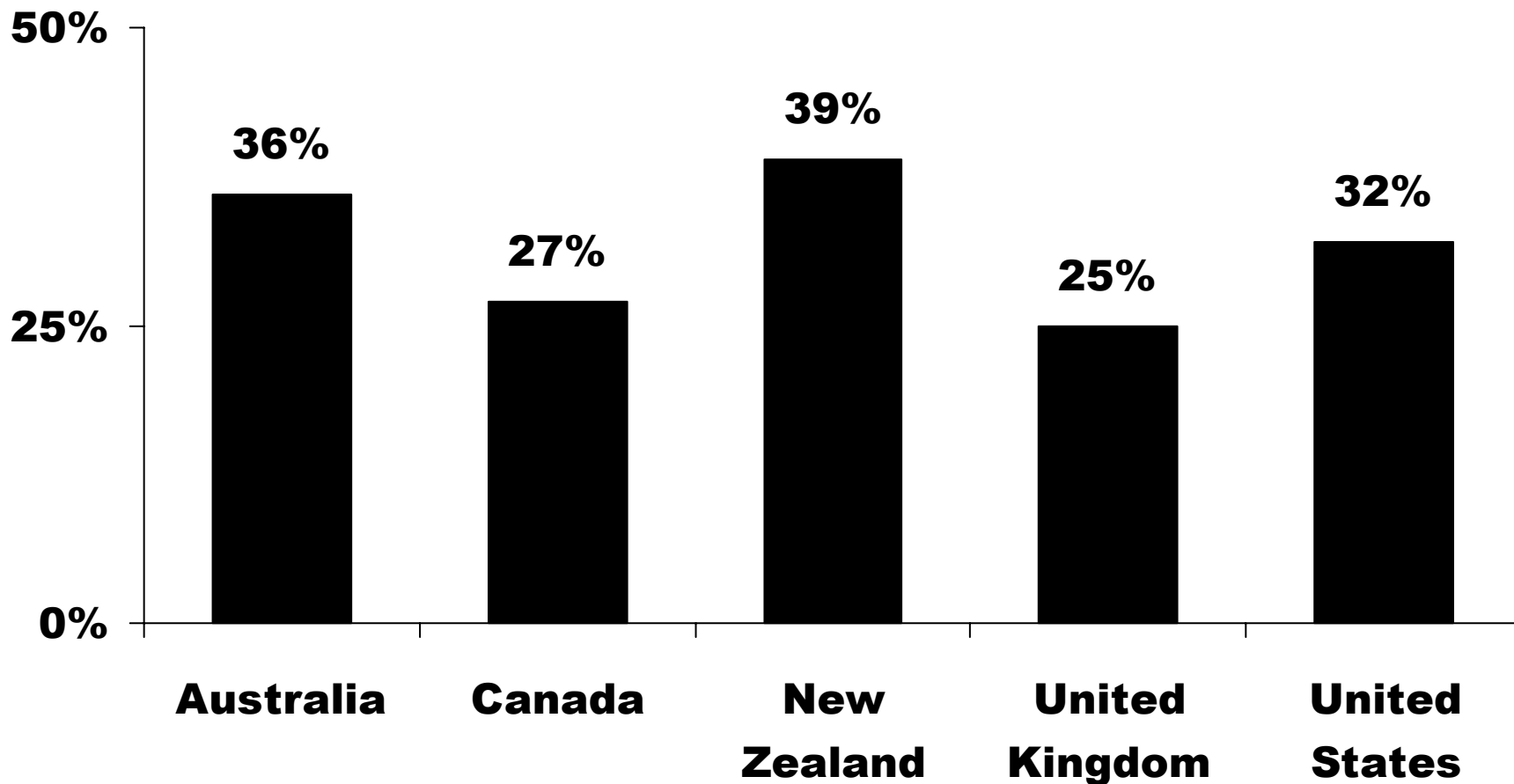
# Long Waits for Surgery Can Be a Serious Problem

Percent of the elderly who needed non-emergency surgery and said waiting a long time was a serious problem



# Quality of Care Ratings

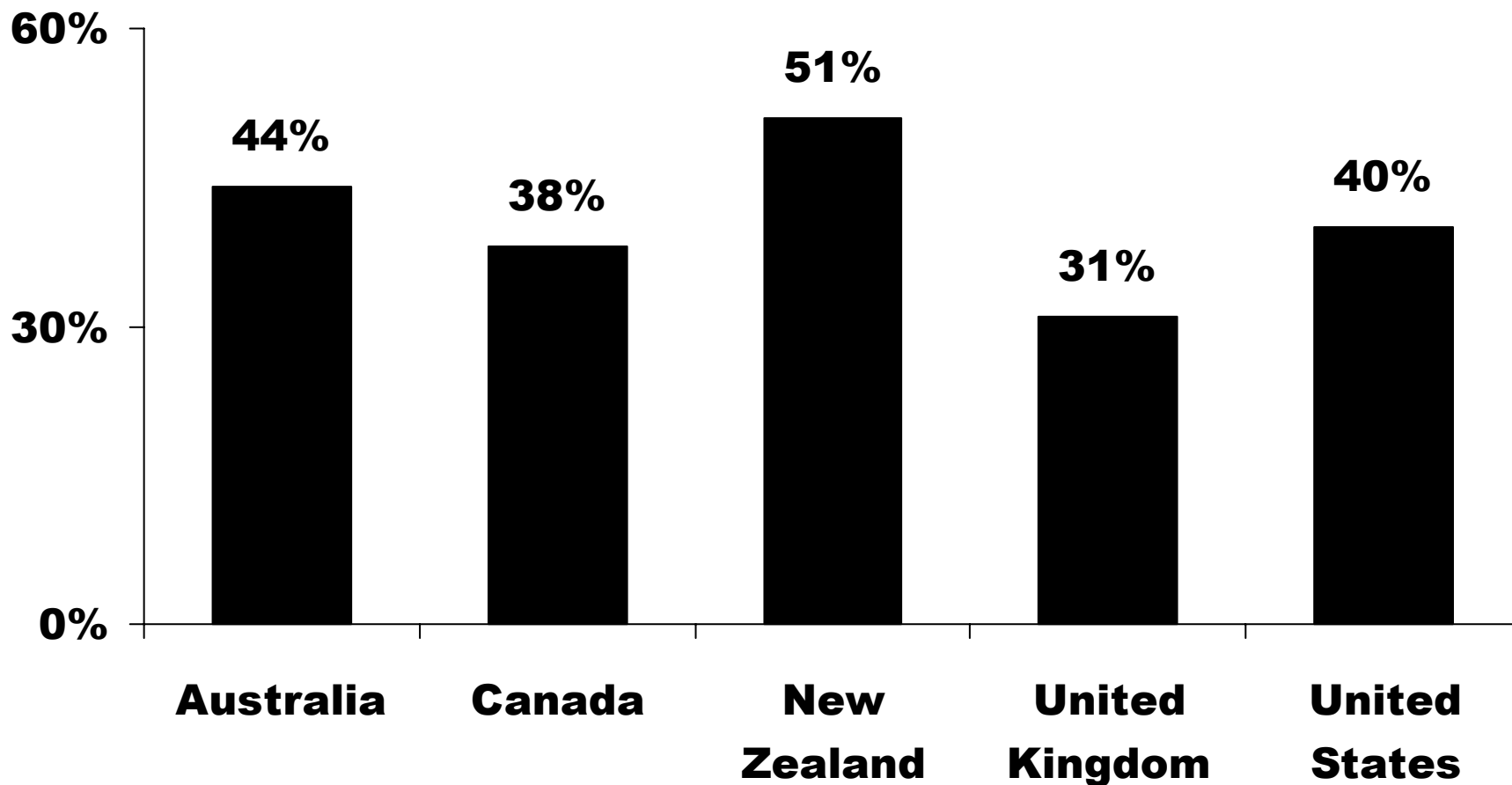
**Percent of the elderly who rated the medical care they received in the past year as “excellent”**





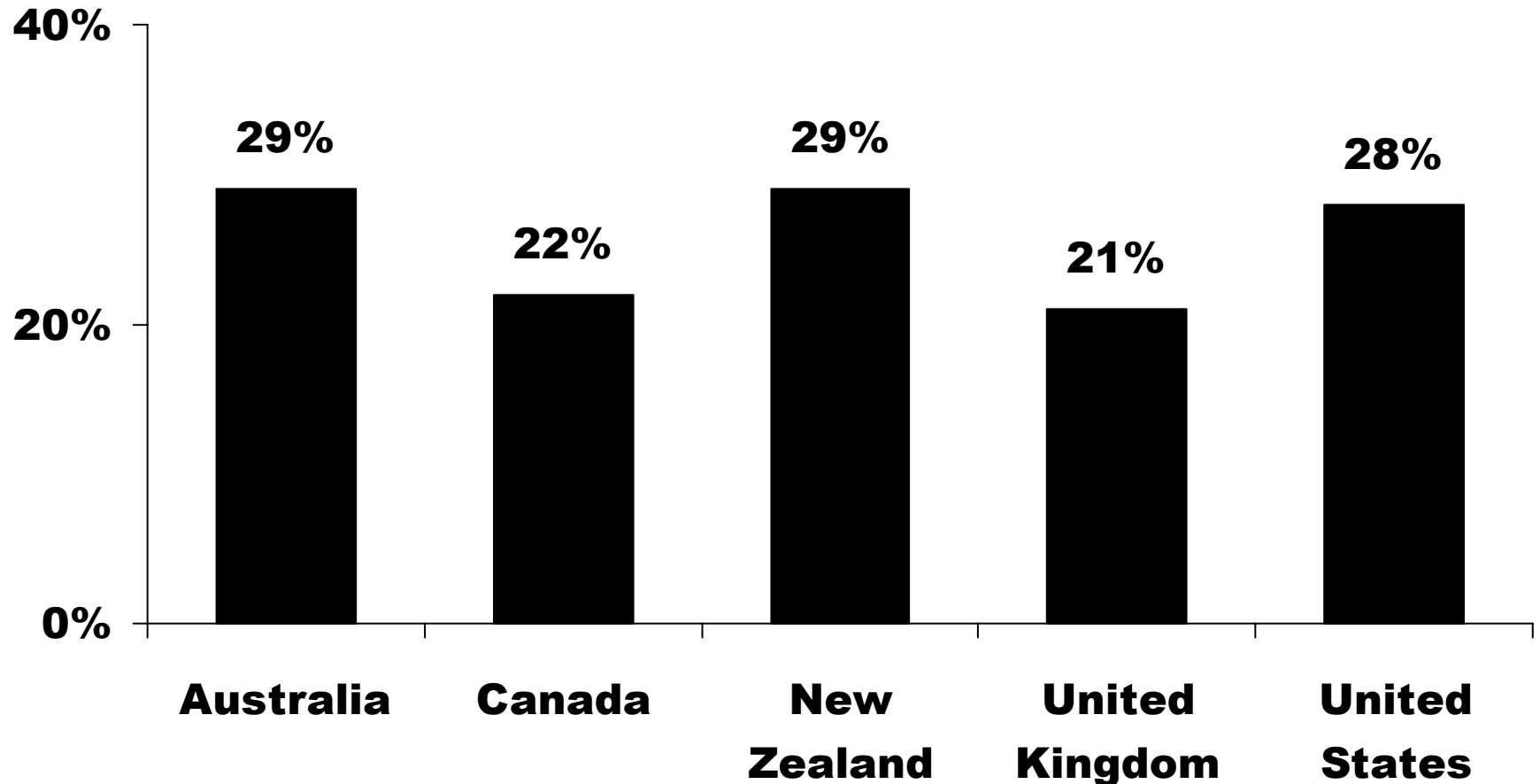
# Quality of Care at Doctor's Visits

Percent of the elderly who rated the care received at their most recent doctor's visit as "excellent"



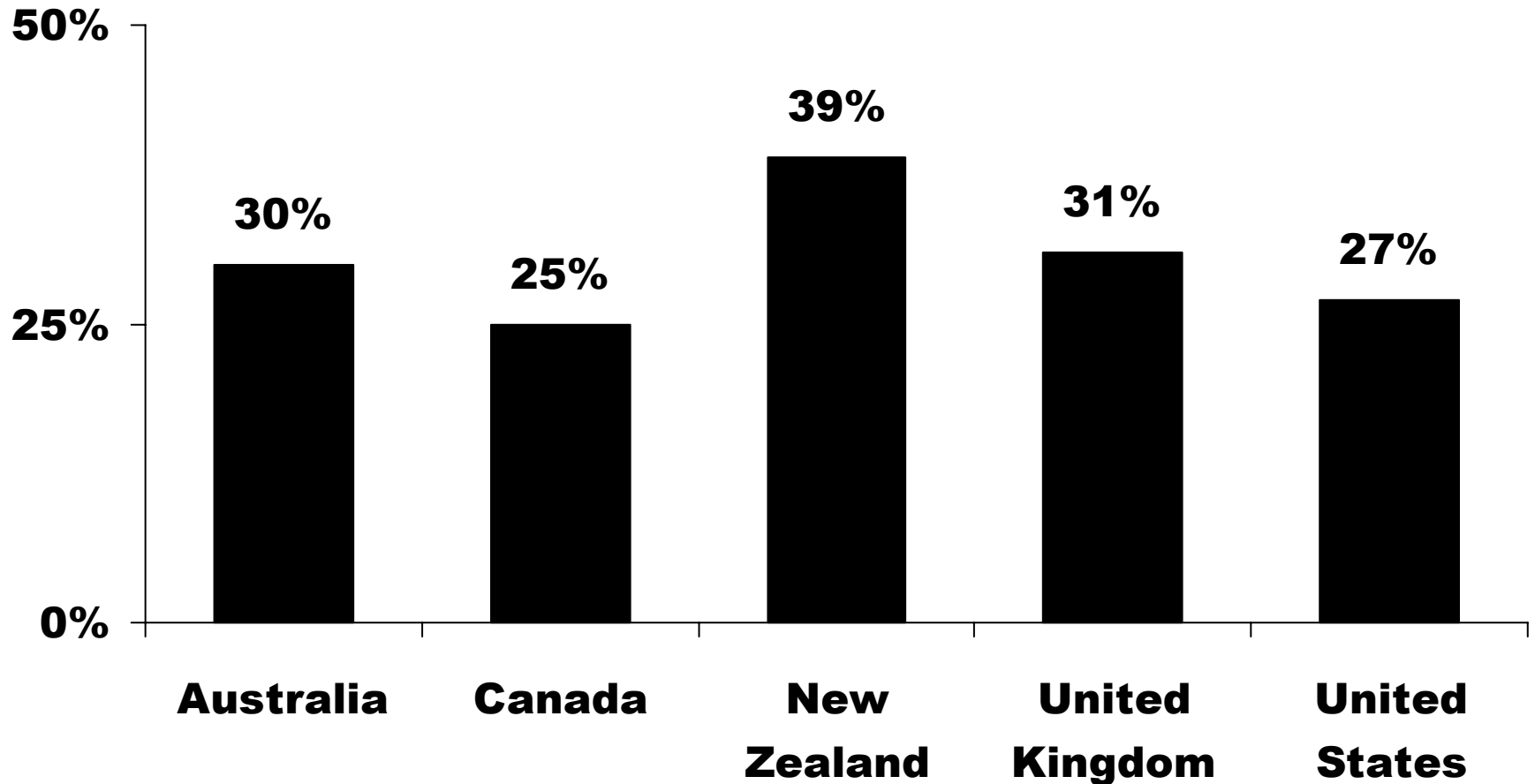
# Percent Hospitalized

Percent of the elderly hospitalized in the past year



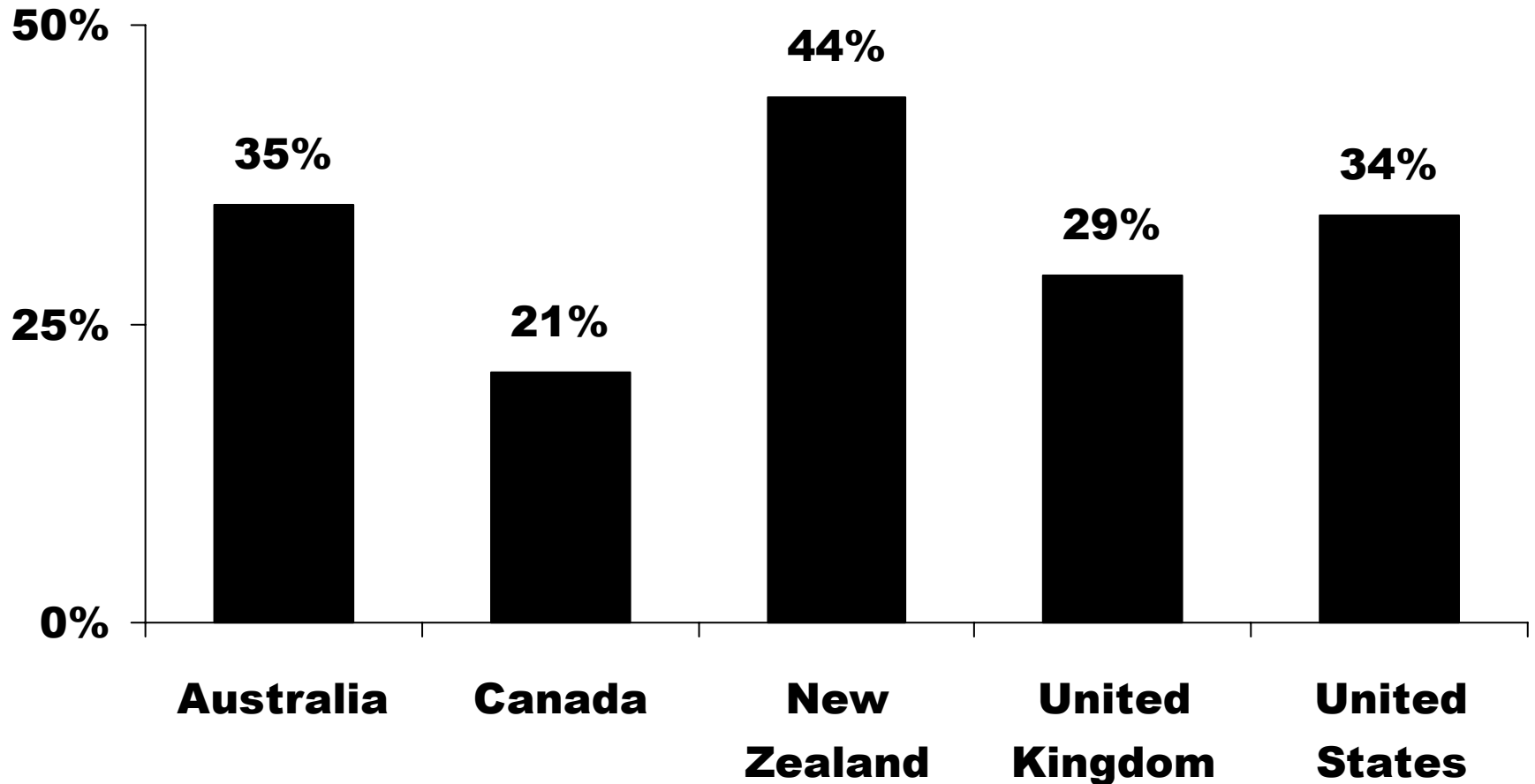
# Quality of Care at the Hospital

**Percent of the elderly who were hospitalized in the past two years and rated their overall hospital experience as “excellent”**



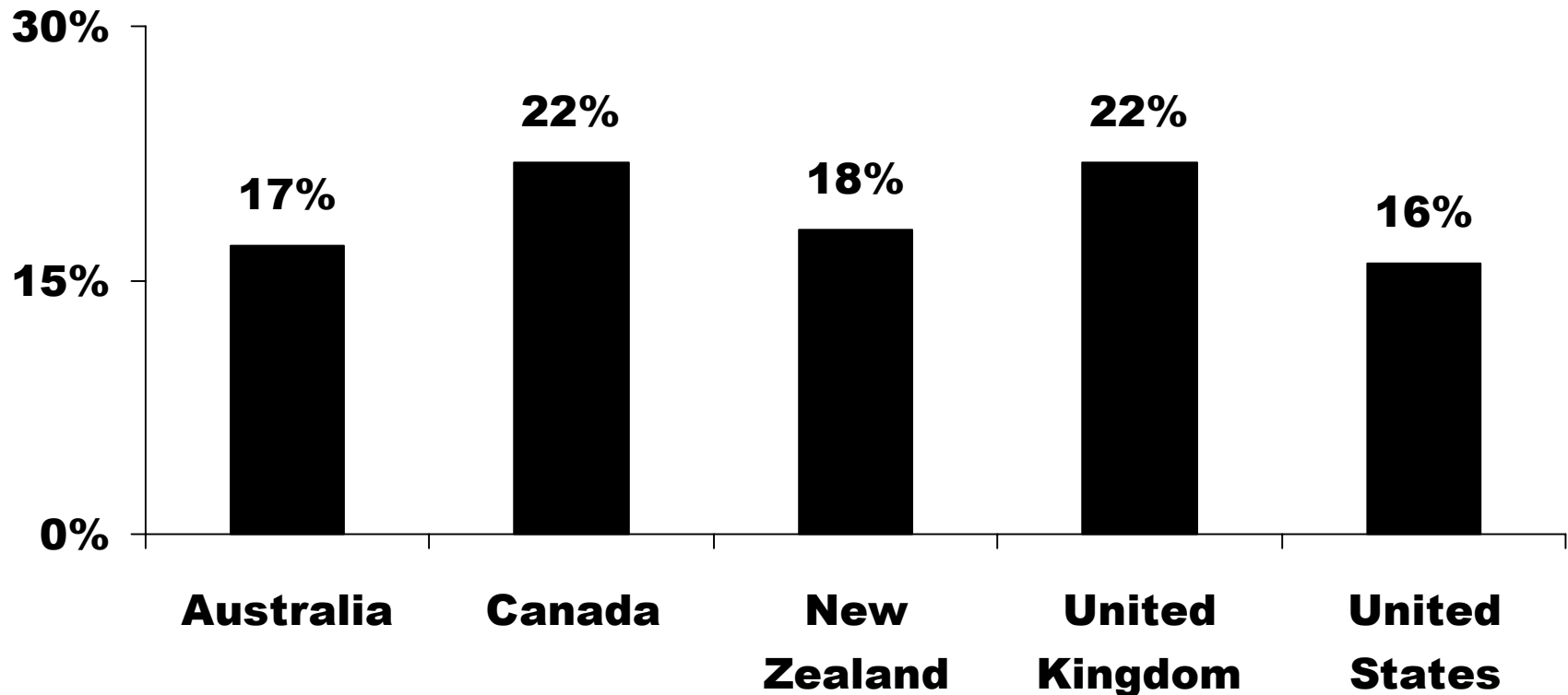
# Availability of Nurses at the Hospital

**Percent of the elderly who were hospitalized in the past two years and rated the availability of nurses at the hospital as “excellent”**



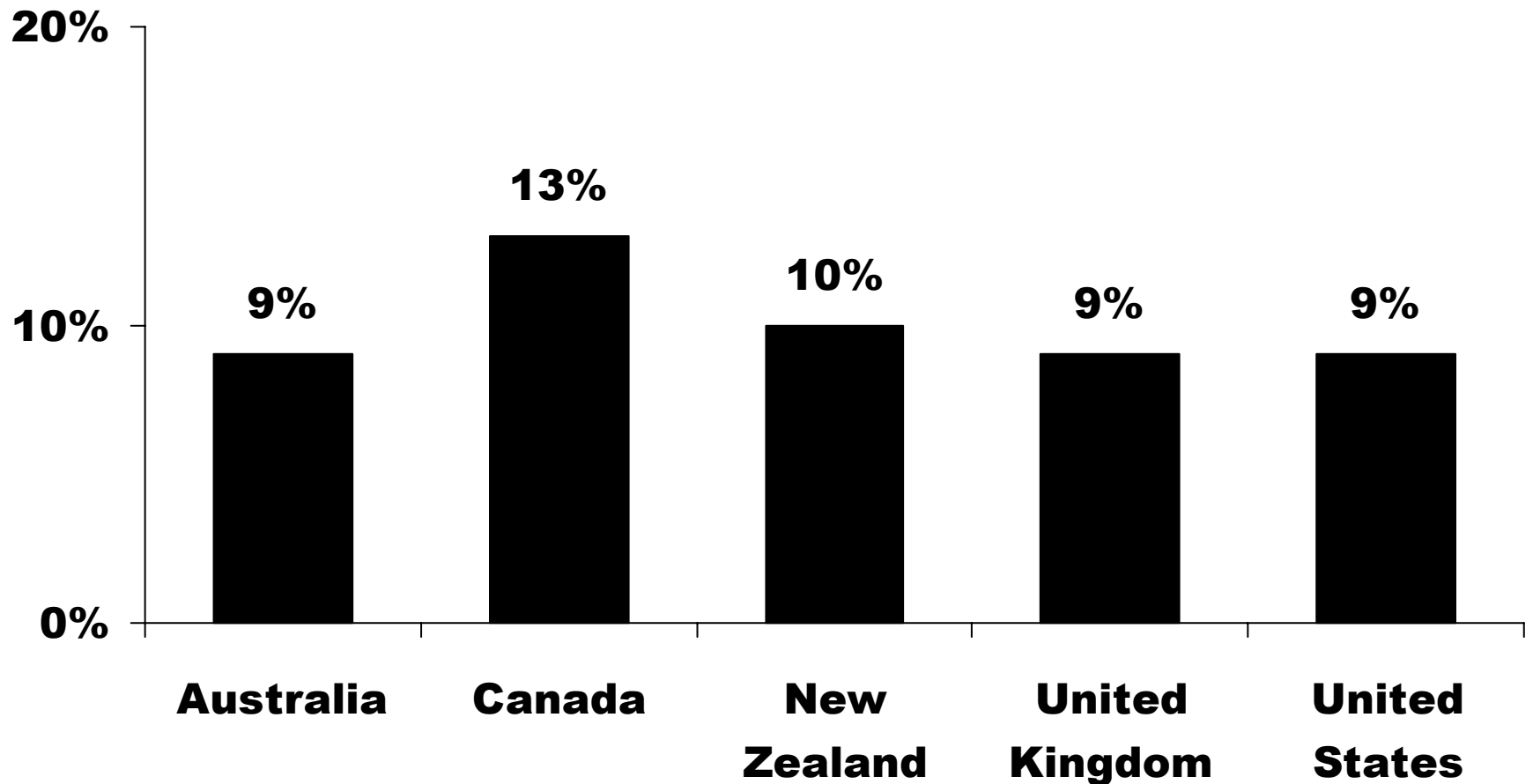
# Influence of the Elderly on Their Care During Hospitalization

**Percent of the elderly who were hospitalized in the past two years and said they did not have enough input or say about their treatment during hospitalization**



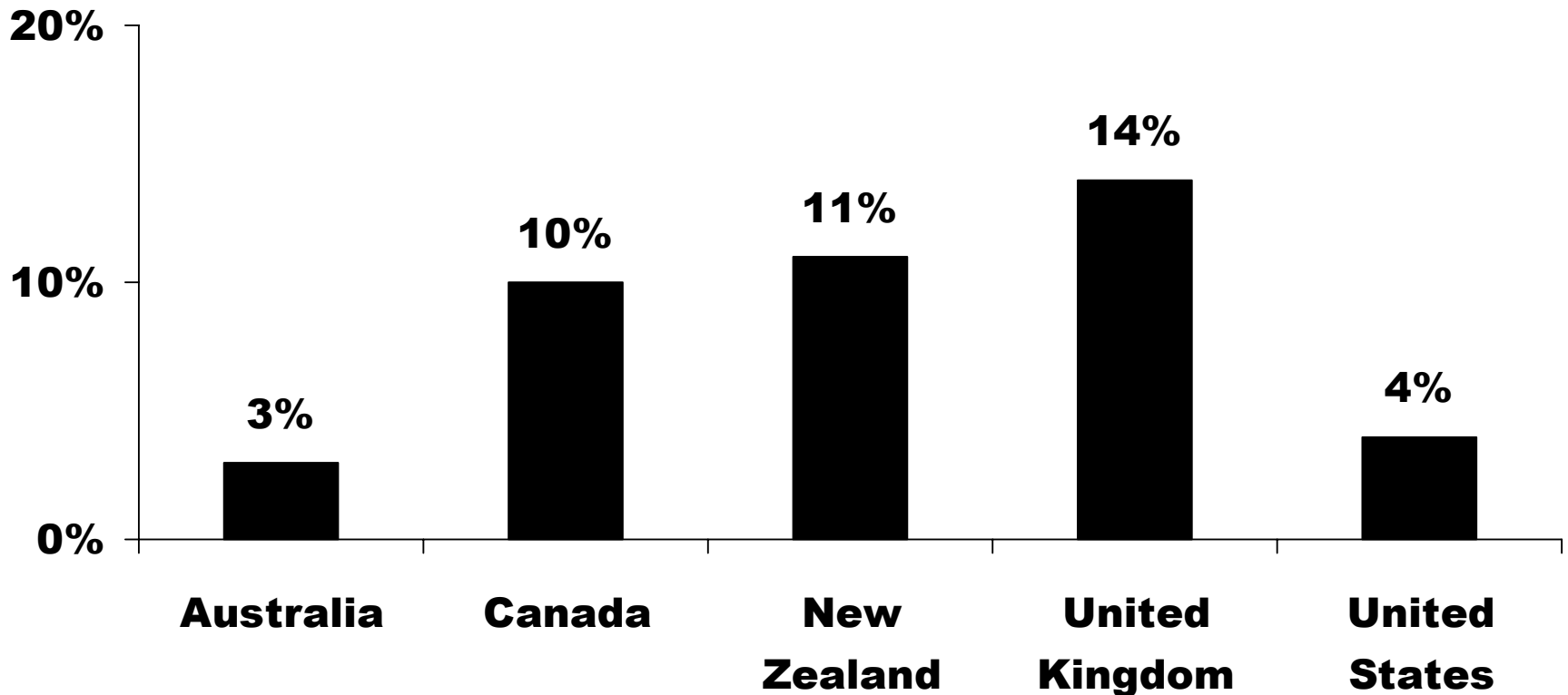
# Length of Hospital Stay

**Percent of the elderly who were hospitalized in the past two years and said their hospital stay was too short**



# Receipt of Extra Help After Hospitalization

**Percent of the elderly who were hospitalized in the past two years said they did not receive the help they needed when they arrived home from the hospital**

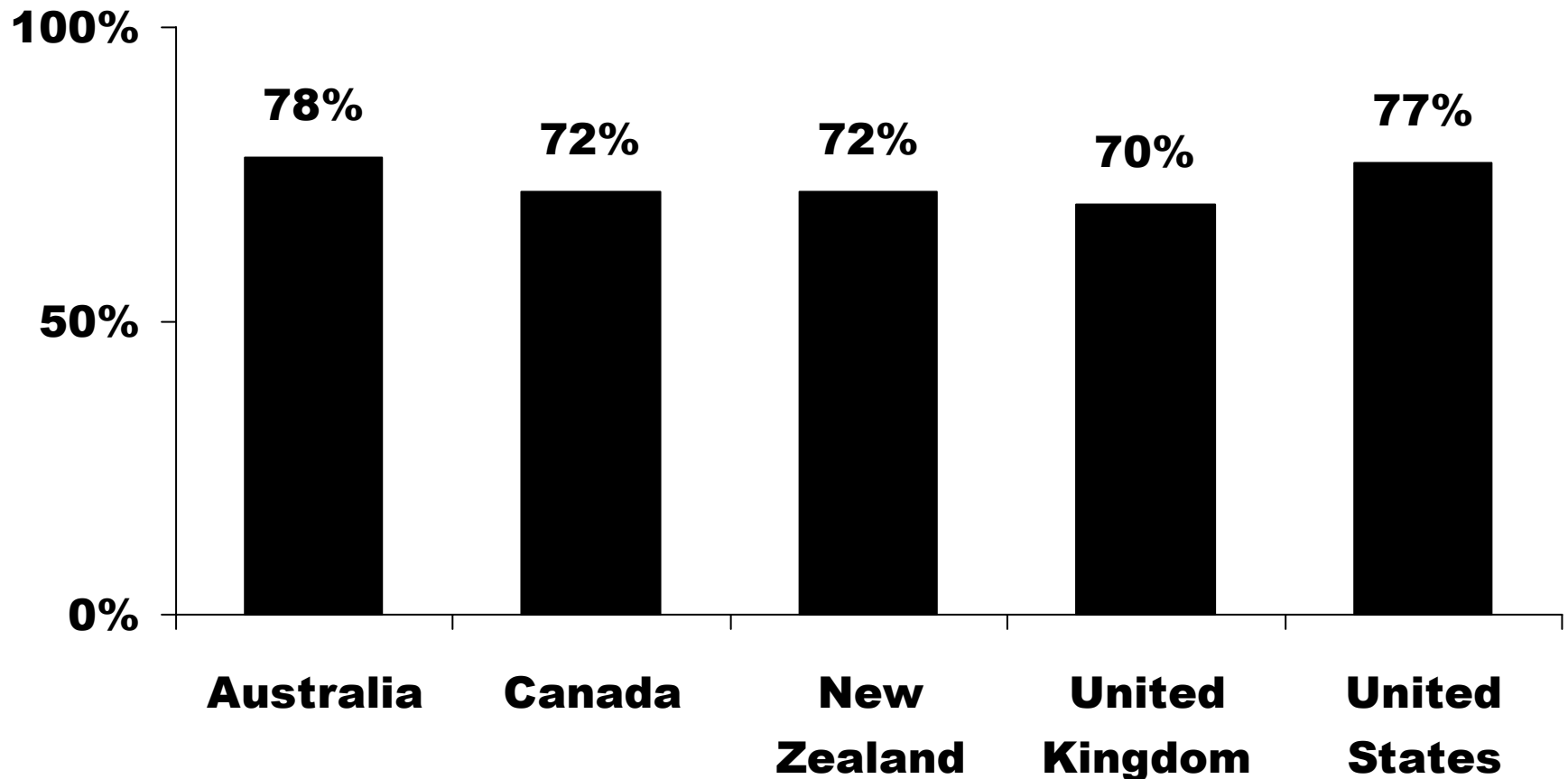


# **Prescription Drugs**



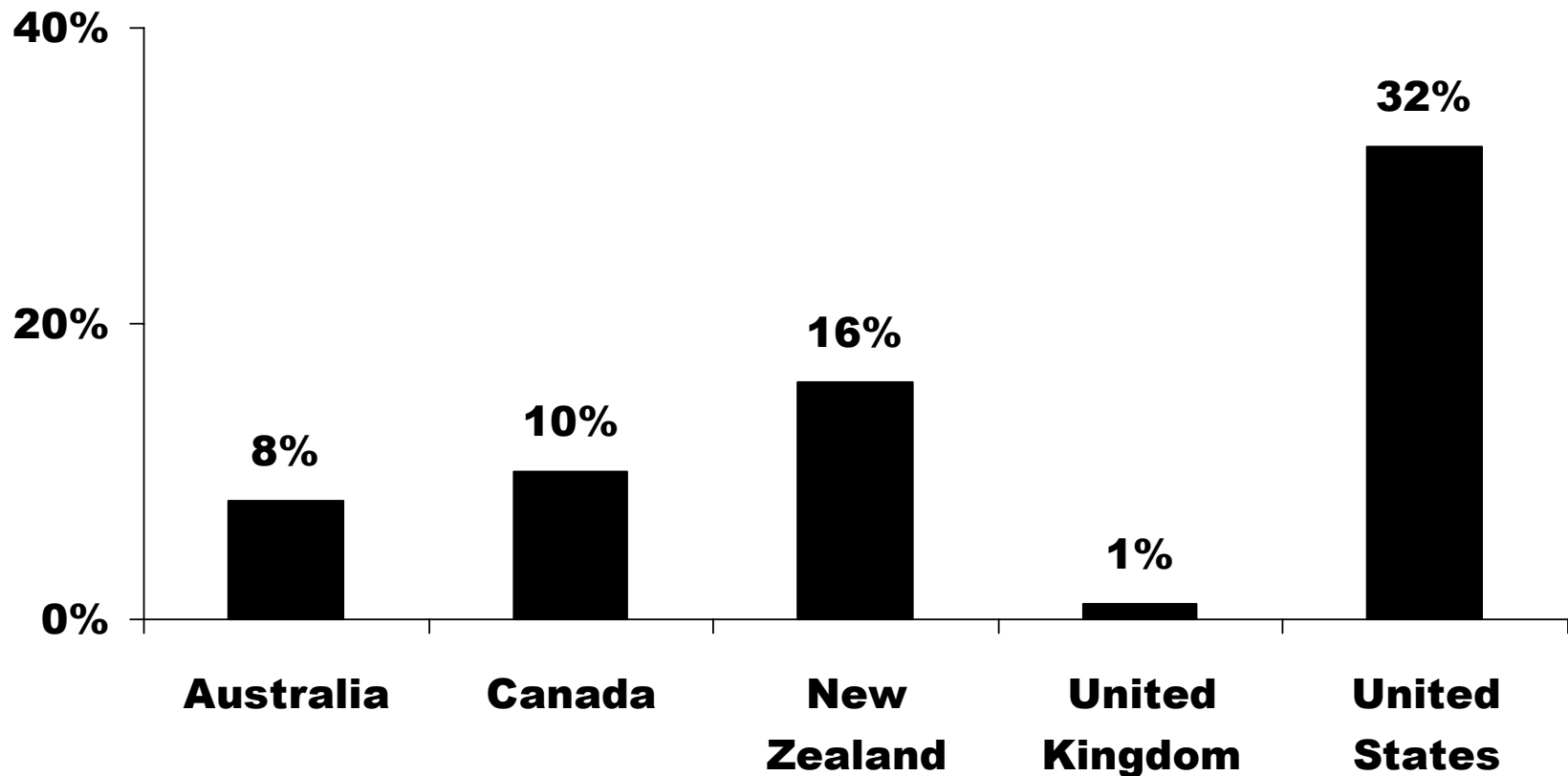
# Reliance on Prescription Medications

**Percent of the elderly who have a medical condition that requires them to take a prescription medication on a regular basis**



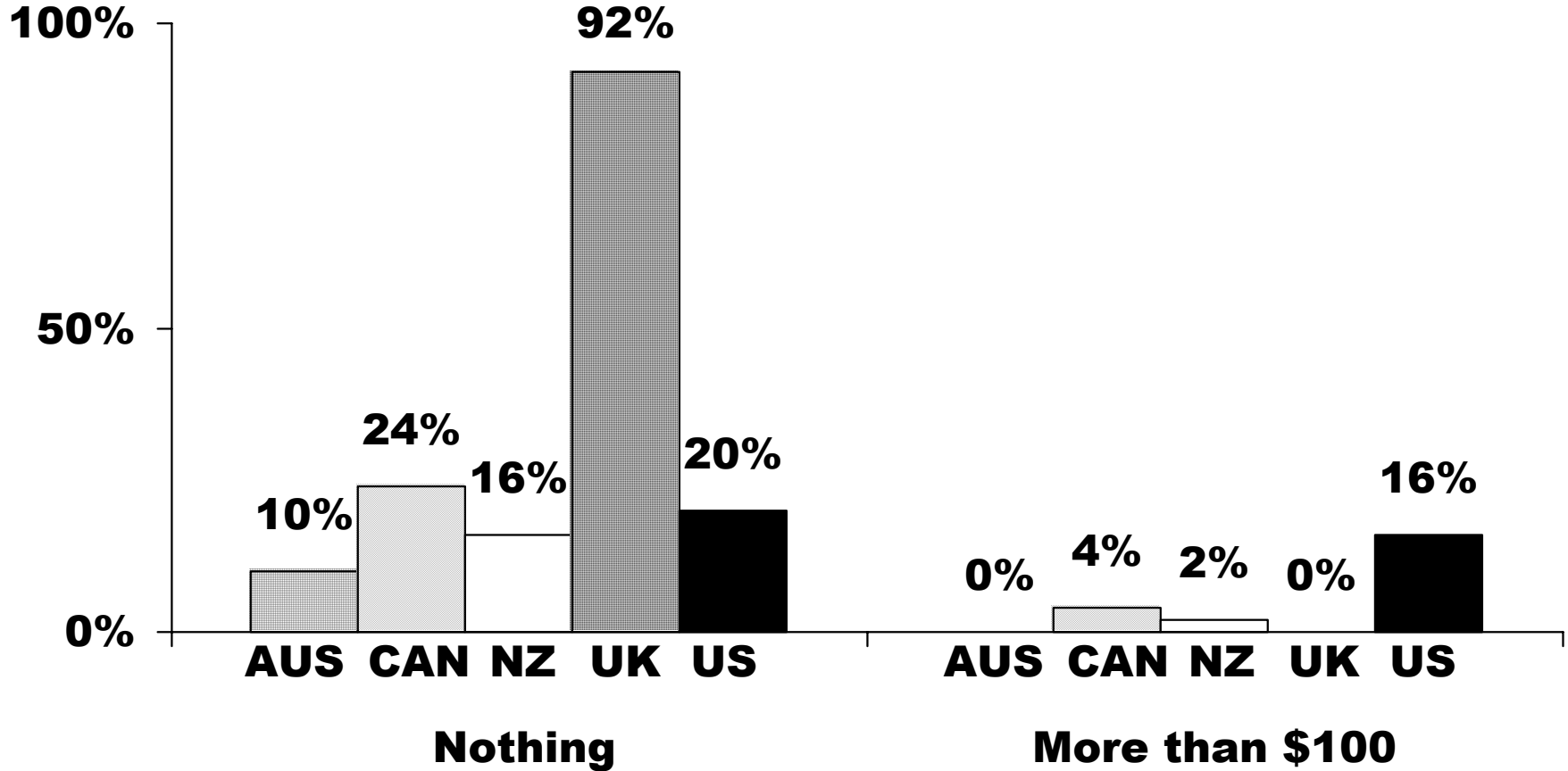
# Lack of Coverage for Prescription Medication

**Percent of the elderly who say they have no public or private coverage for the cost of prescription medications**



# Out-of-Pocket Spending on Prescription Medicines

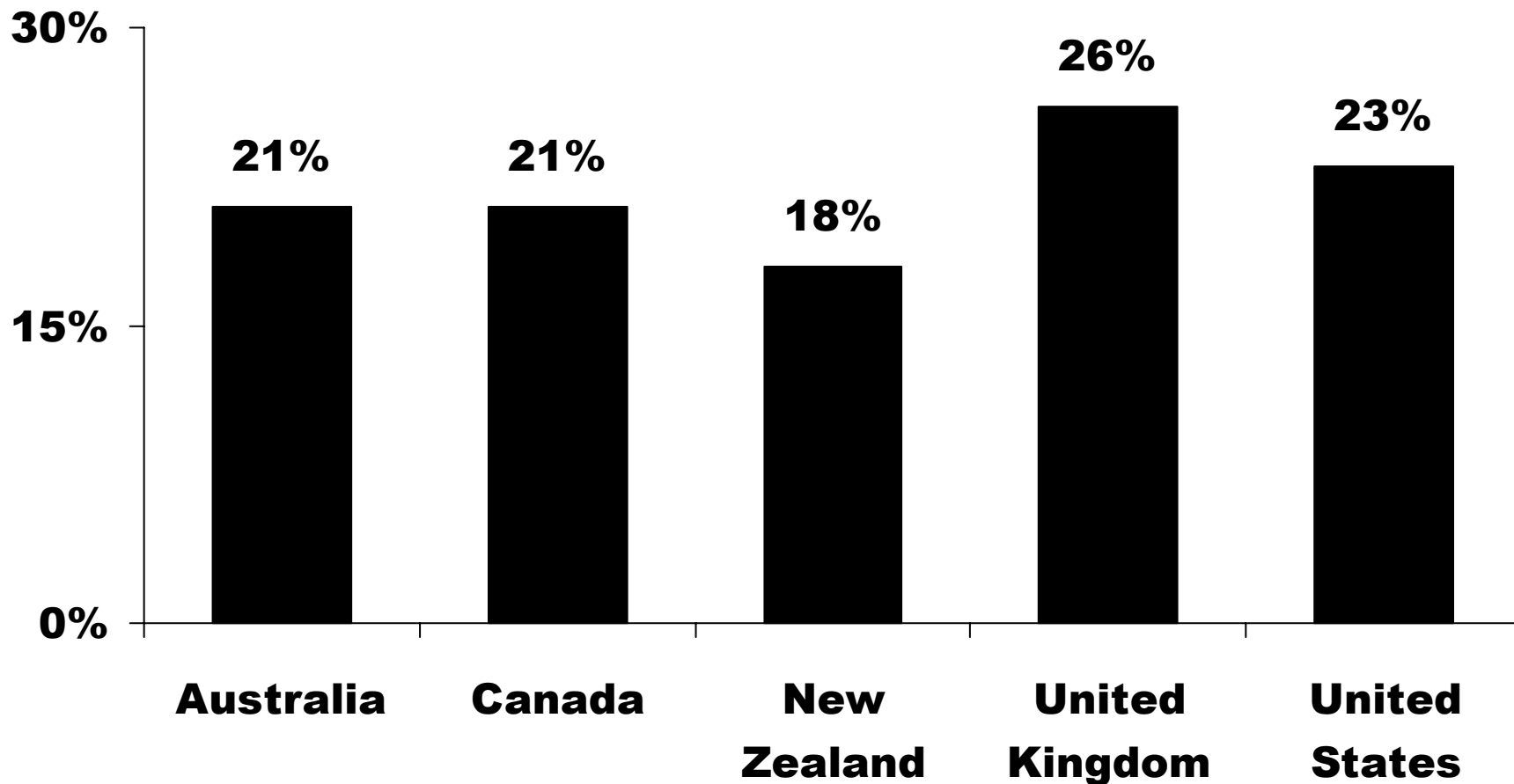
**Per month out-of-pocket expenditures for prescription medicine by the elderly**



# **Home Health Care**

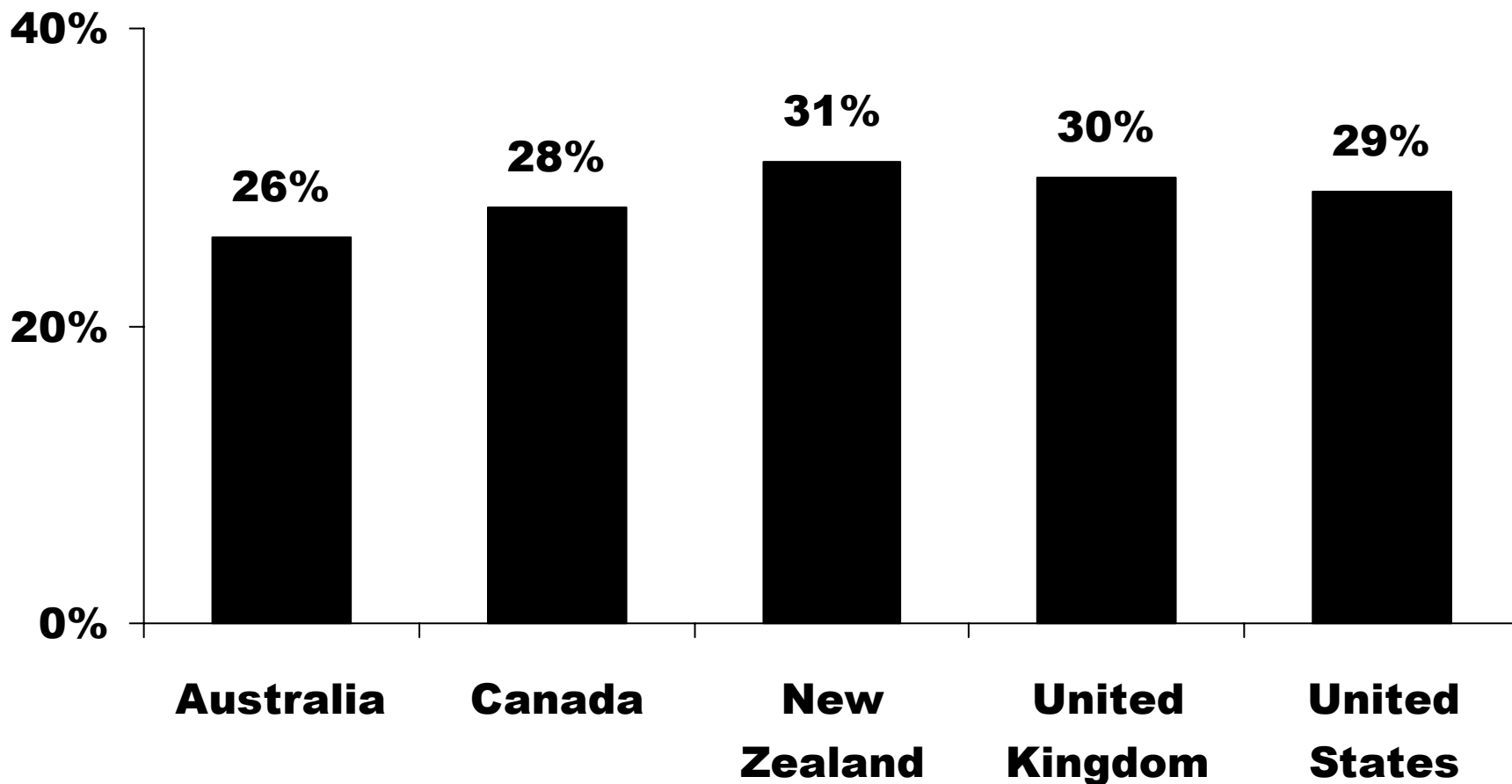
# Perceived Health Status

Percent of the elderly who rated their health as “fair” or “poor”



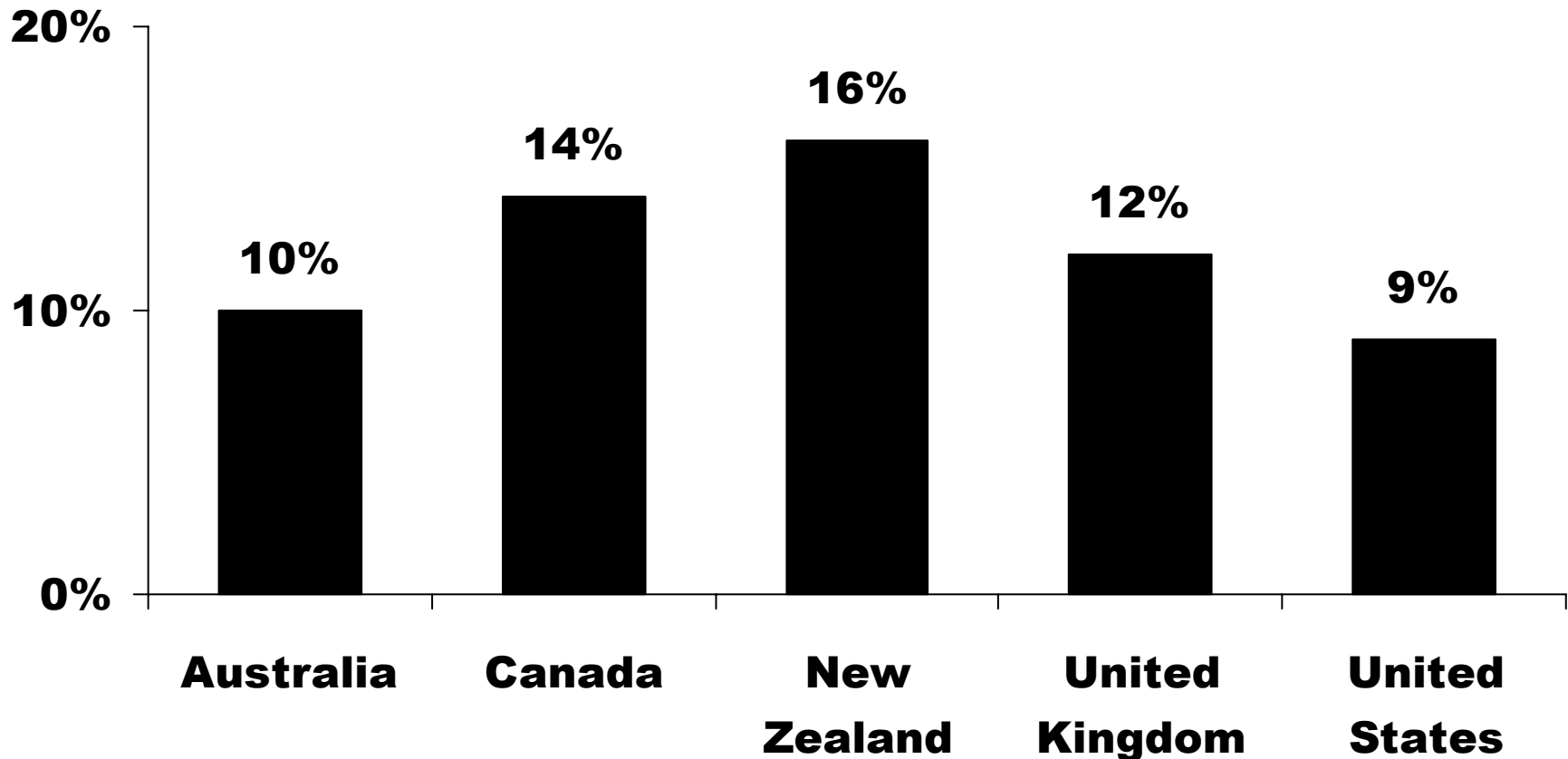
# Disabilities and Health Conditions

**Percent of the elderly who have a disability or health condition limiting full participation in daily activities**



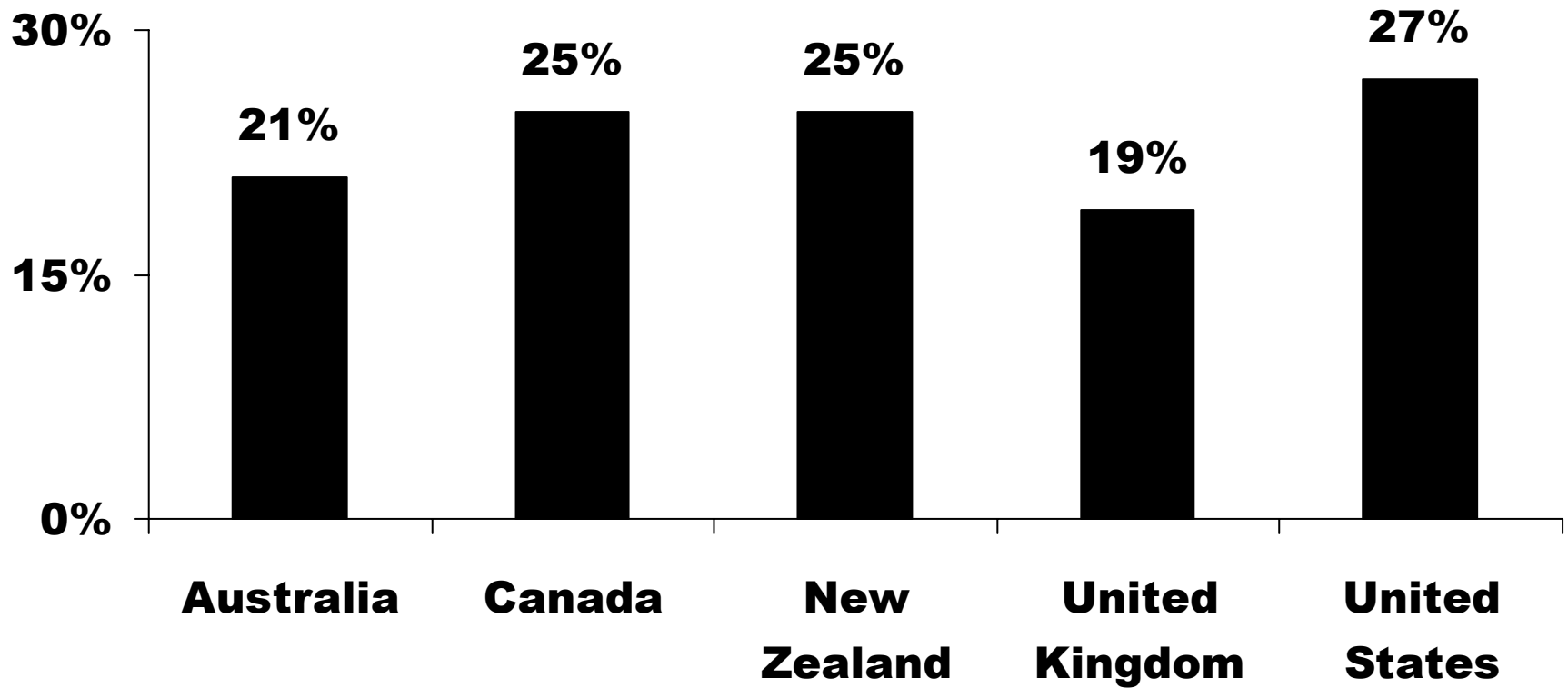
# Need for Assistance with Activities of Daily Living

**Percent of the elderly who needed home health or personal care services to help with eating, dressing, bathing, or other needs in the past two years**



# Caregiving Experience of the Elderly

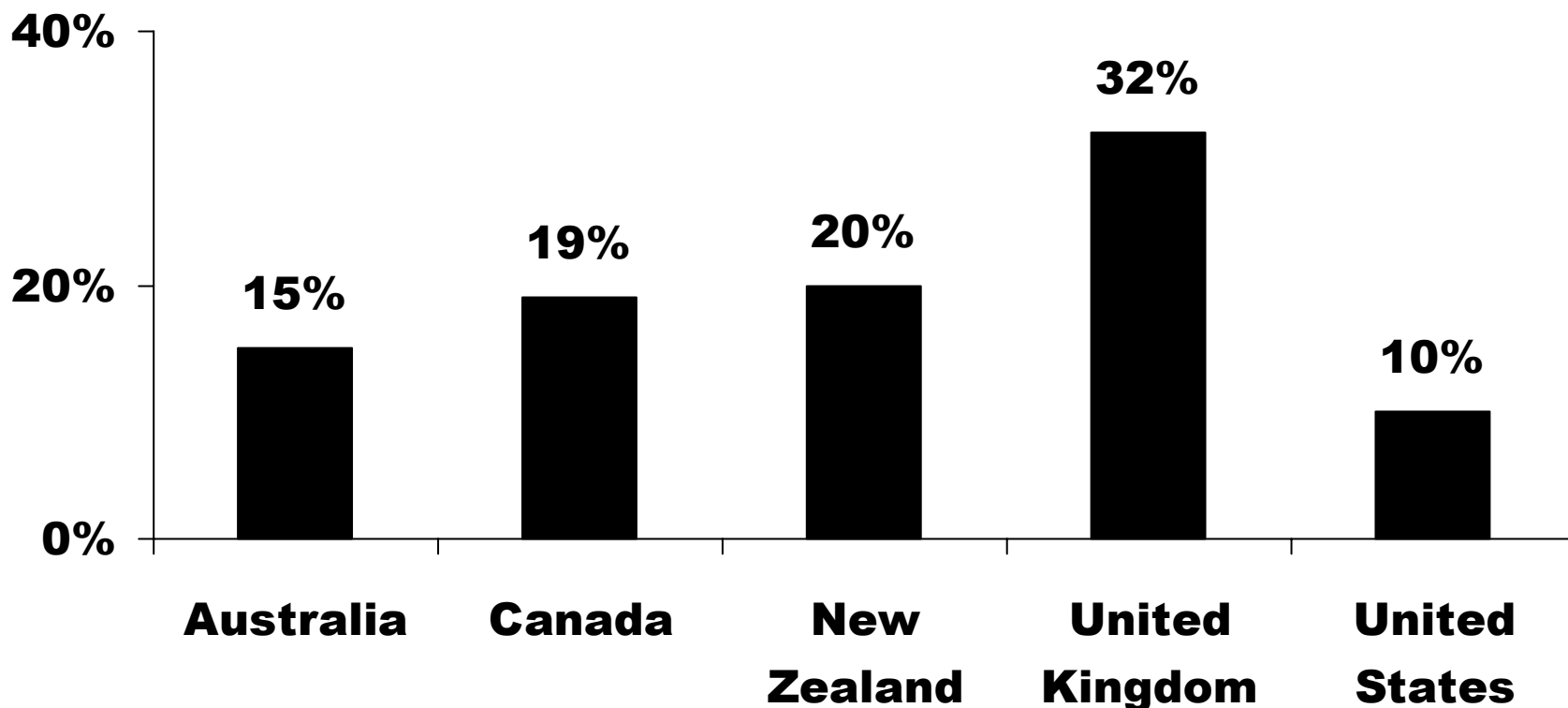
**Percent of the elderly who are currently caring or have in the past two years cared for someone who is frail, sick, or disabled**





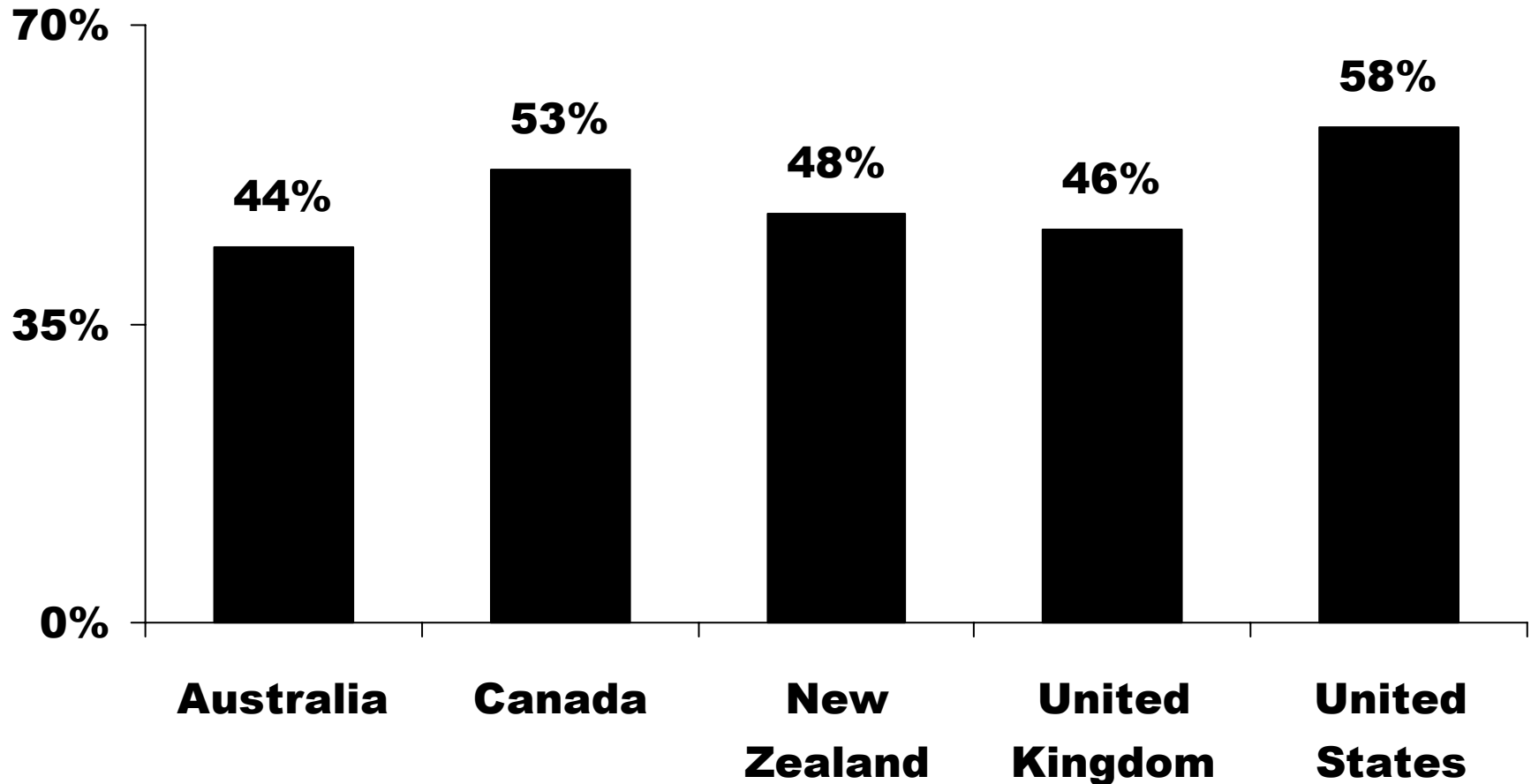
# Caregivers' Unmet Need for Assistance

**Percent of elderly caregivers who needed home health care assistance for the person they cared for in the past two years and couldn't get it**



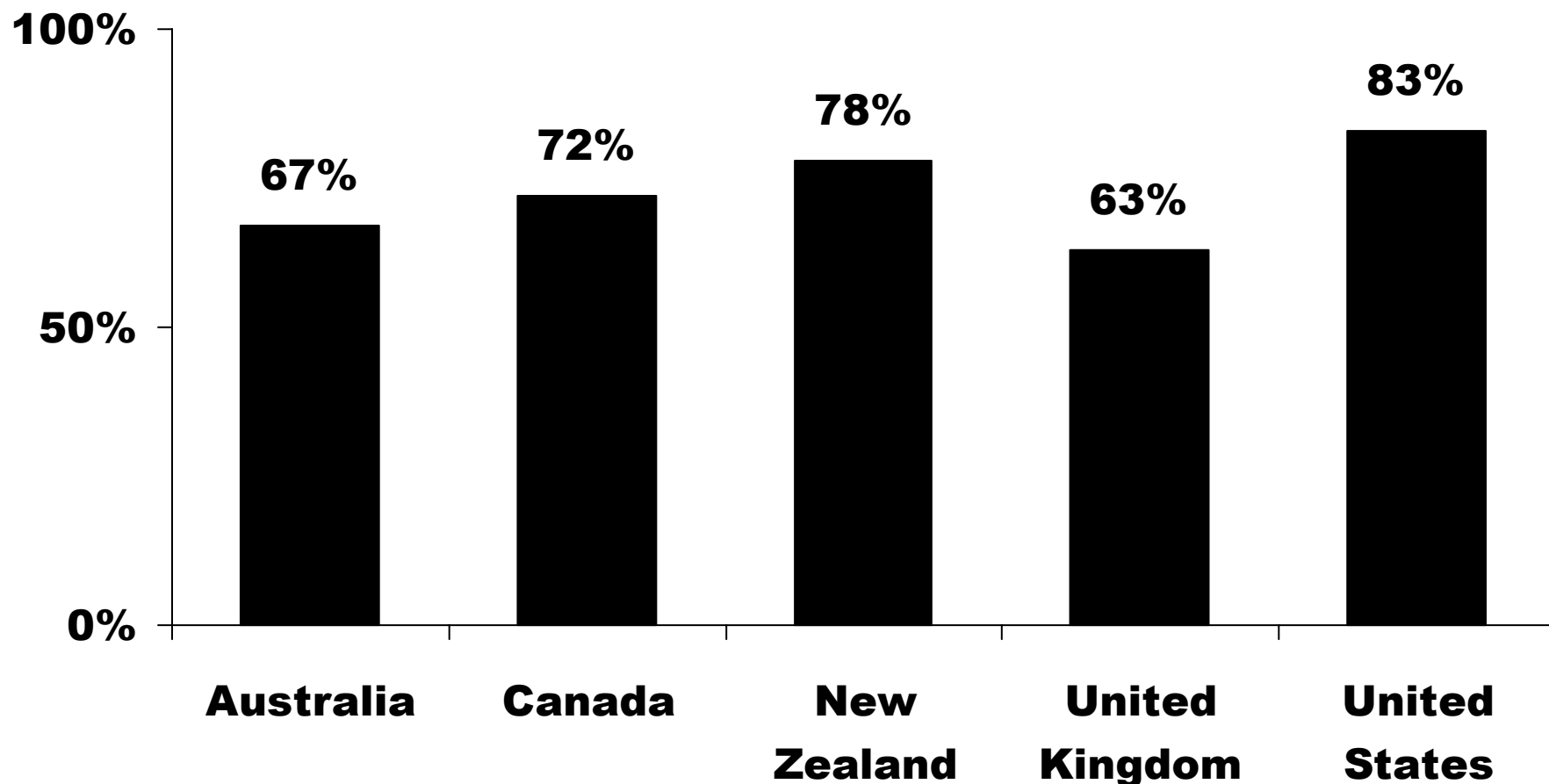
# Caregivers' Ability to Get Additional Help

**Percent of elderly caregivers reporting they used paid home health care in addition to informal care**



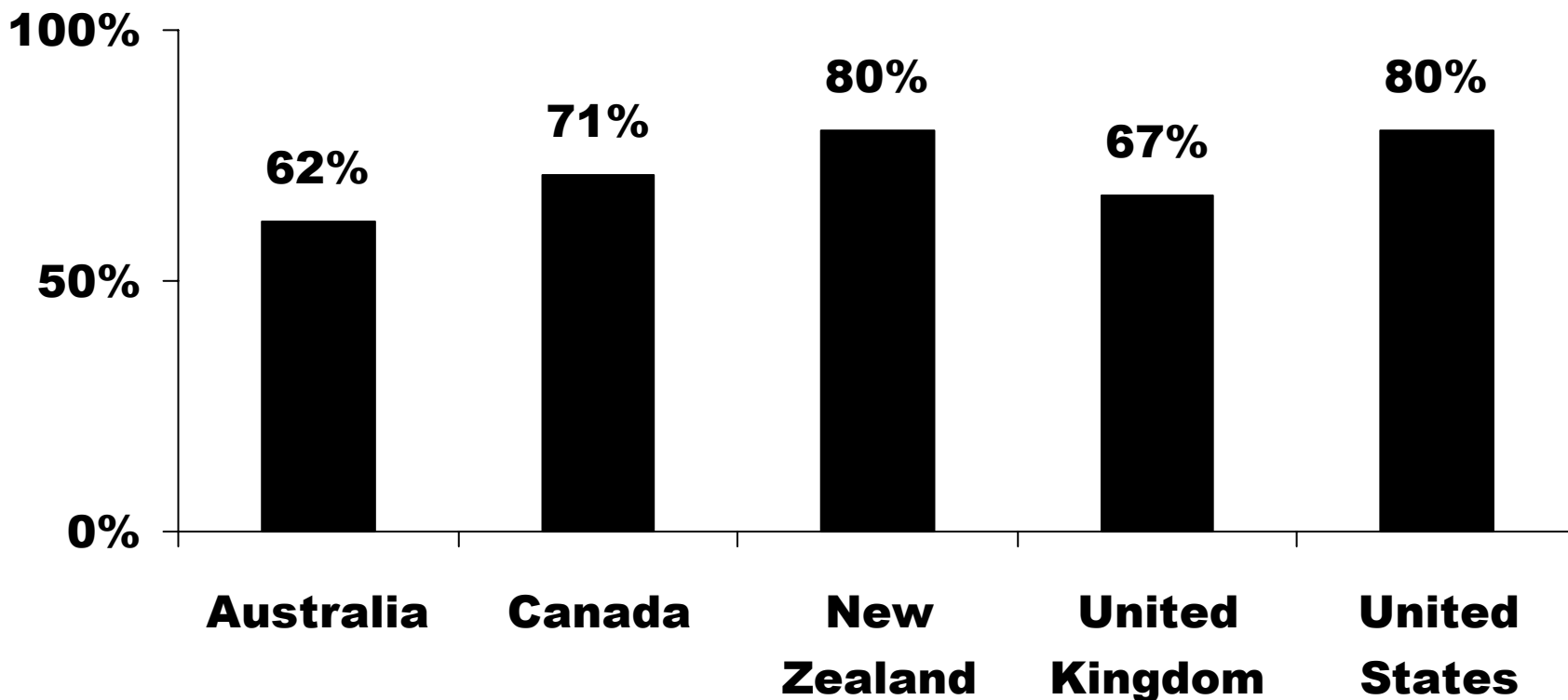
# The Elderly's Ability to Get Additional<sup>27</sup> Help

**Percent of the elderly in need of care in the home who received some paid home health care**



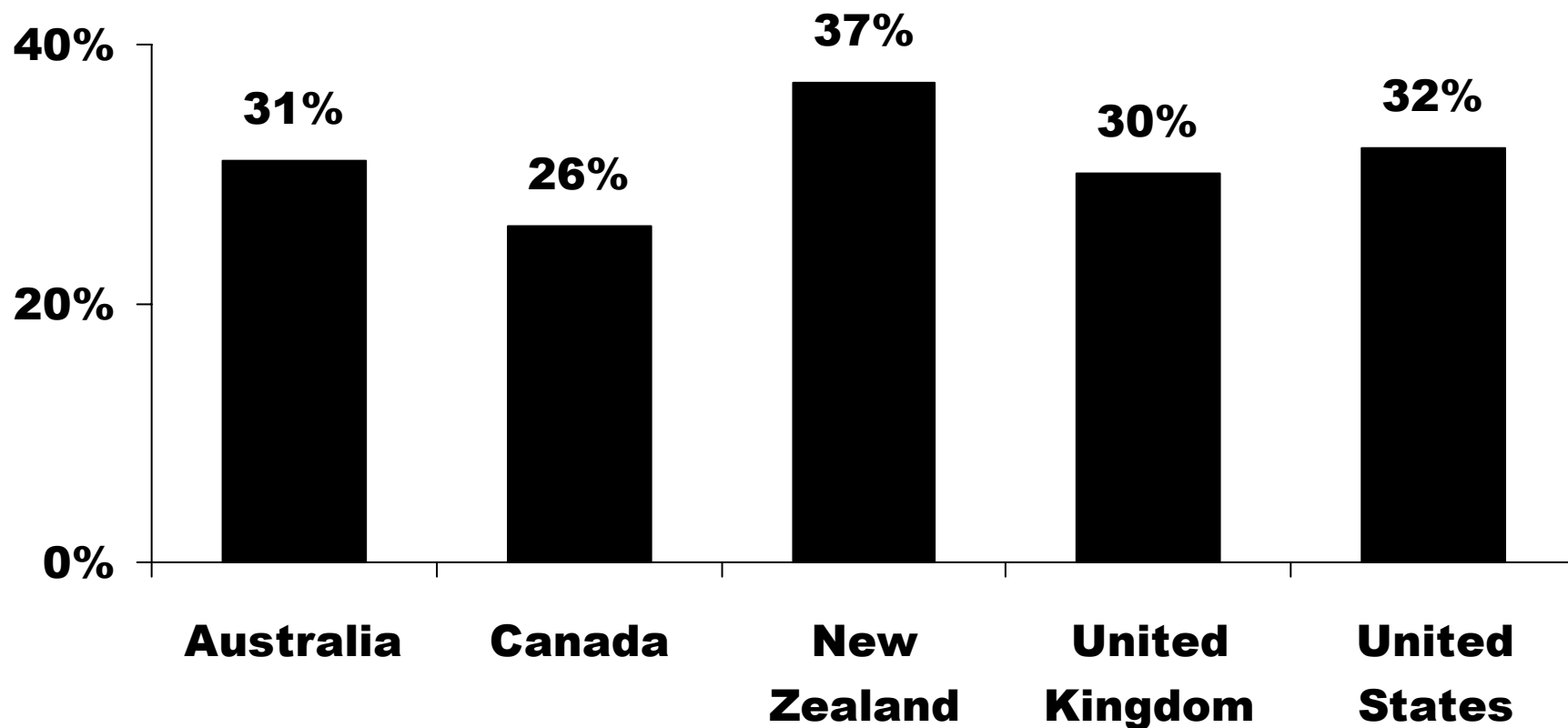
# Public or Government Program Assistance with Paid Home Health Care

**Percent of elderly caregivers reporting paid home care assistance who said a government program or public insurance (rather than family) paid for care**



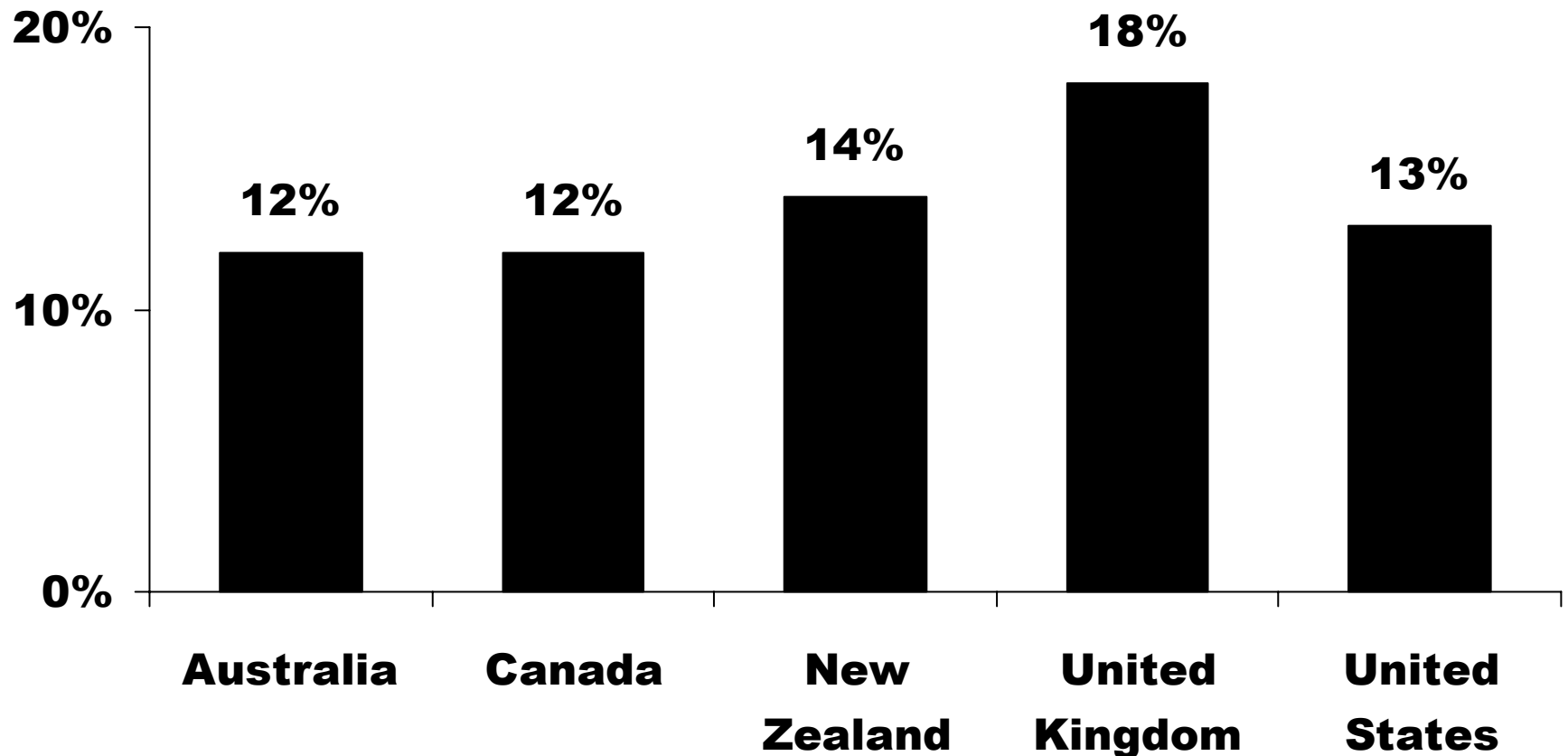
# Many Elderly Receive Health Assistance from Their Children

Percent of the elderly with children who “often” receive help from them when they are ill



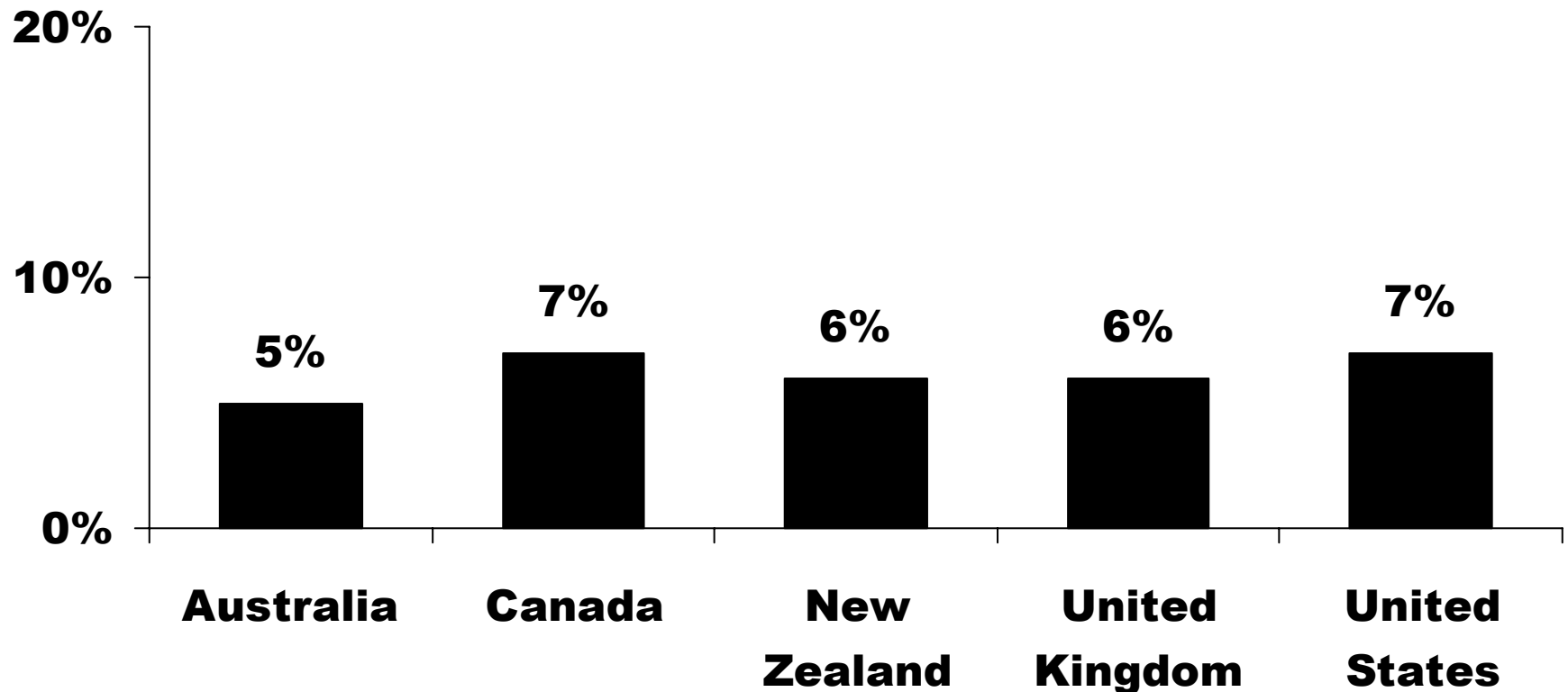
# The Elderly Receive Financial Assistance from Their Children

**Percent of the elderly with children who “often” or “sometimes” receive financial support from their children**



# Children Are a Major Source of Assistance and Caregiving for Their Parents

**Percent of the elderly with children who said there was a time they needed help from their children and didn't get it**

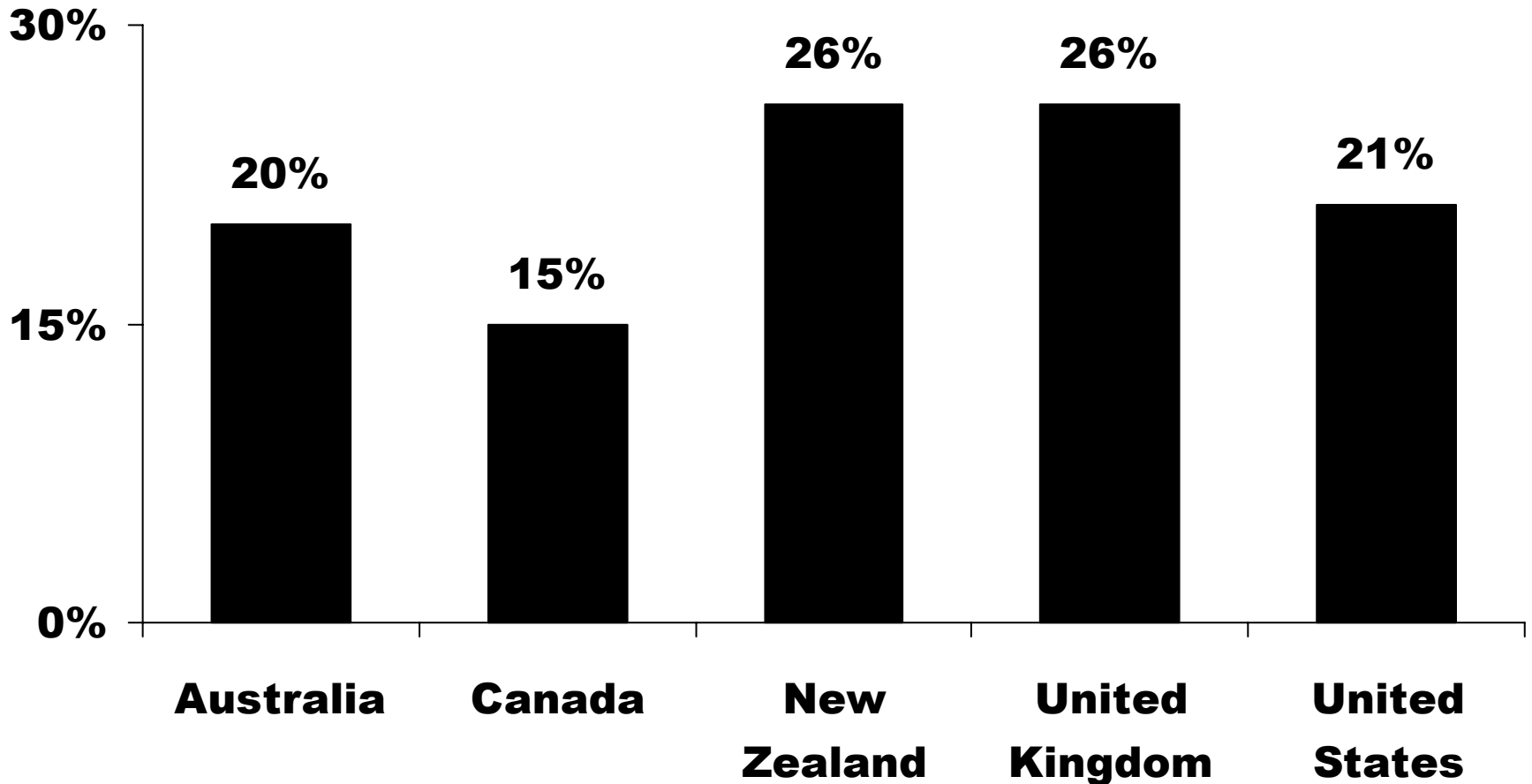


# **Concerns About Costs and Future Health Care Needs**



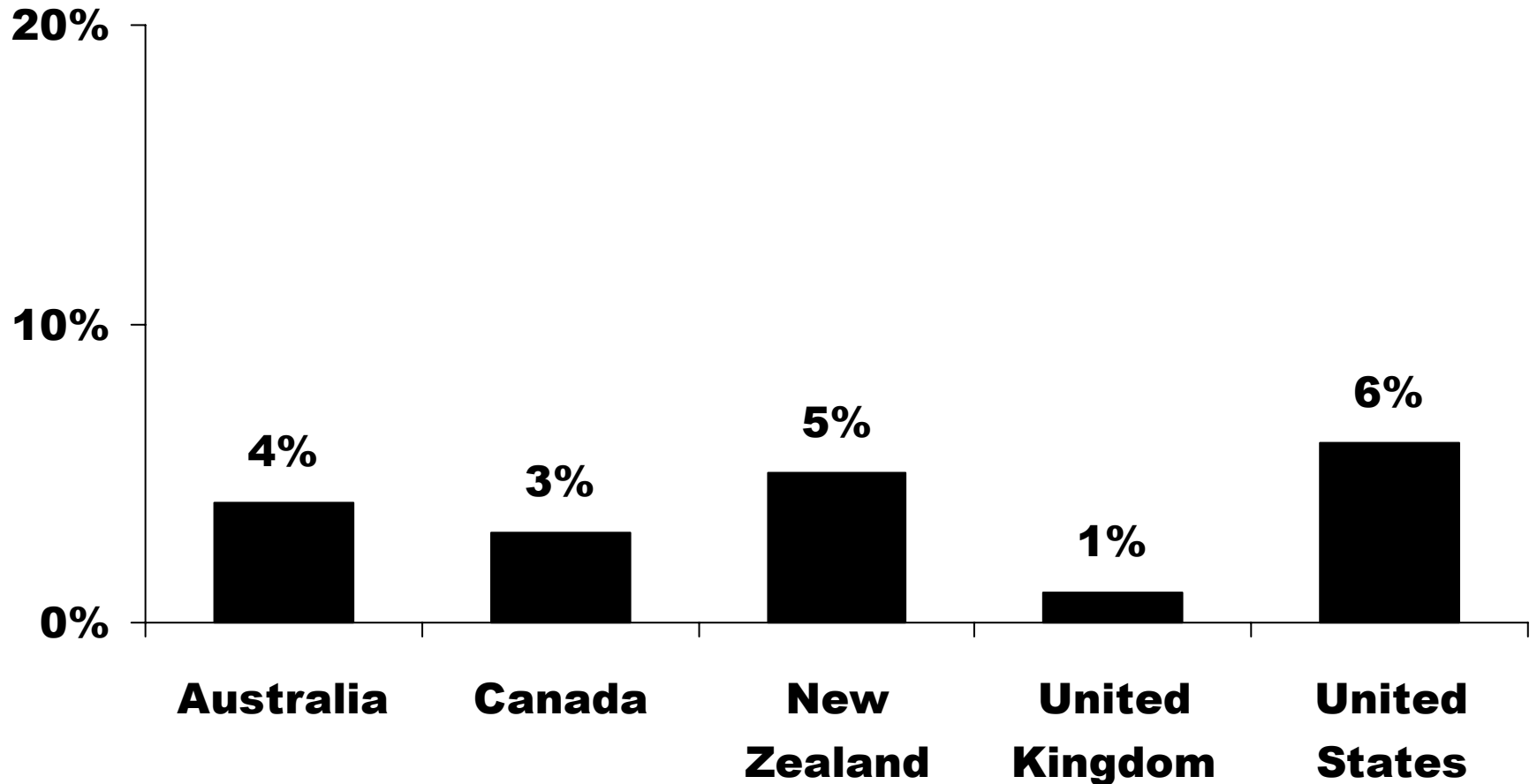
# Difficulties Meeting Regular Expenses

Percent of the elderly who say it is “extremely” or “somewhat” difficult to meet regular expenses



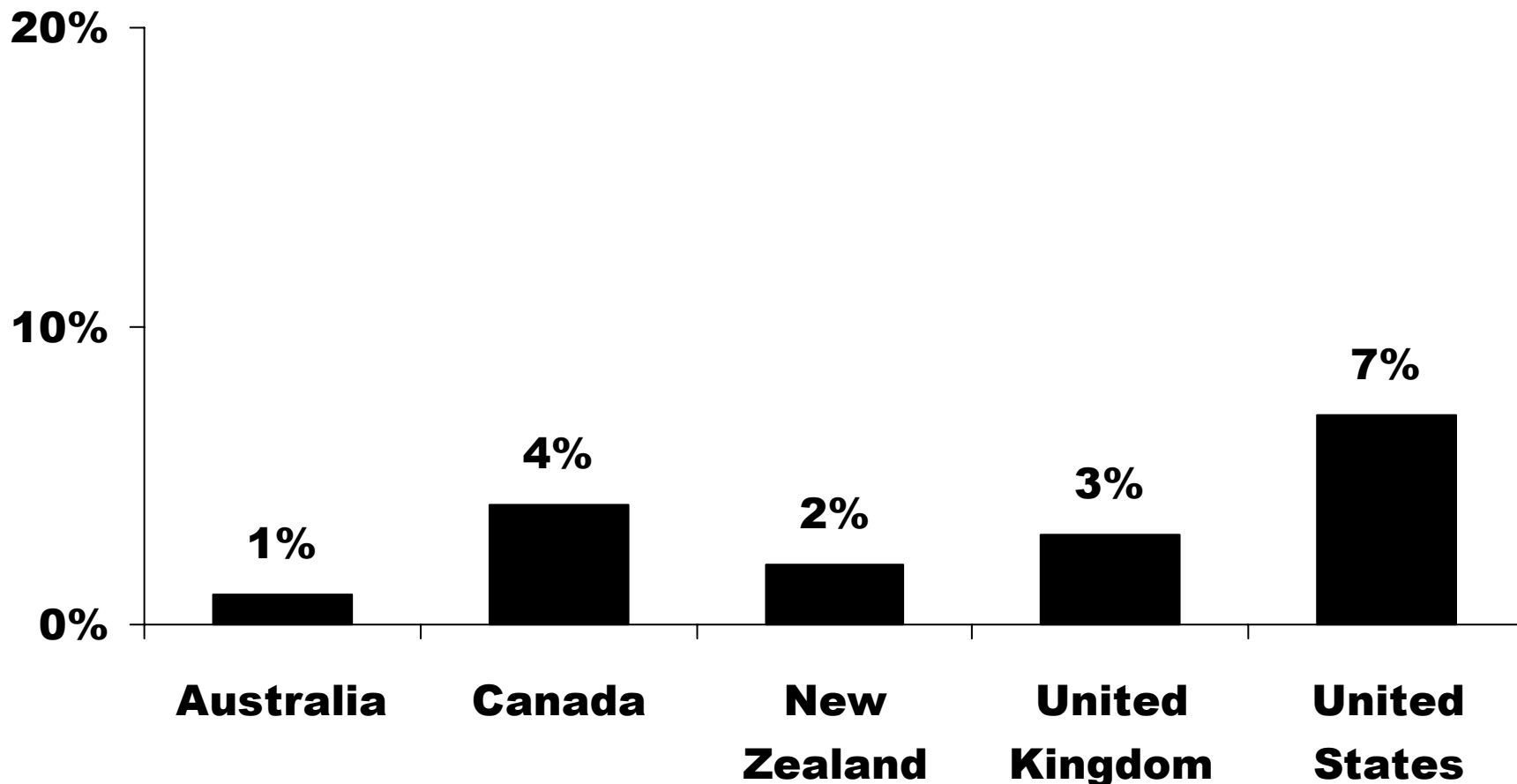
# Difficulties Paying Medical Bills

**Percent of the elderly who had problems paying medical bills in the past year**



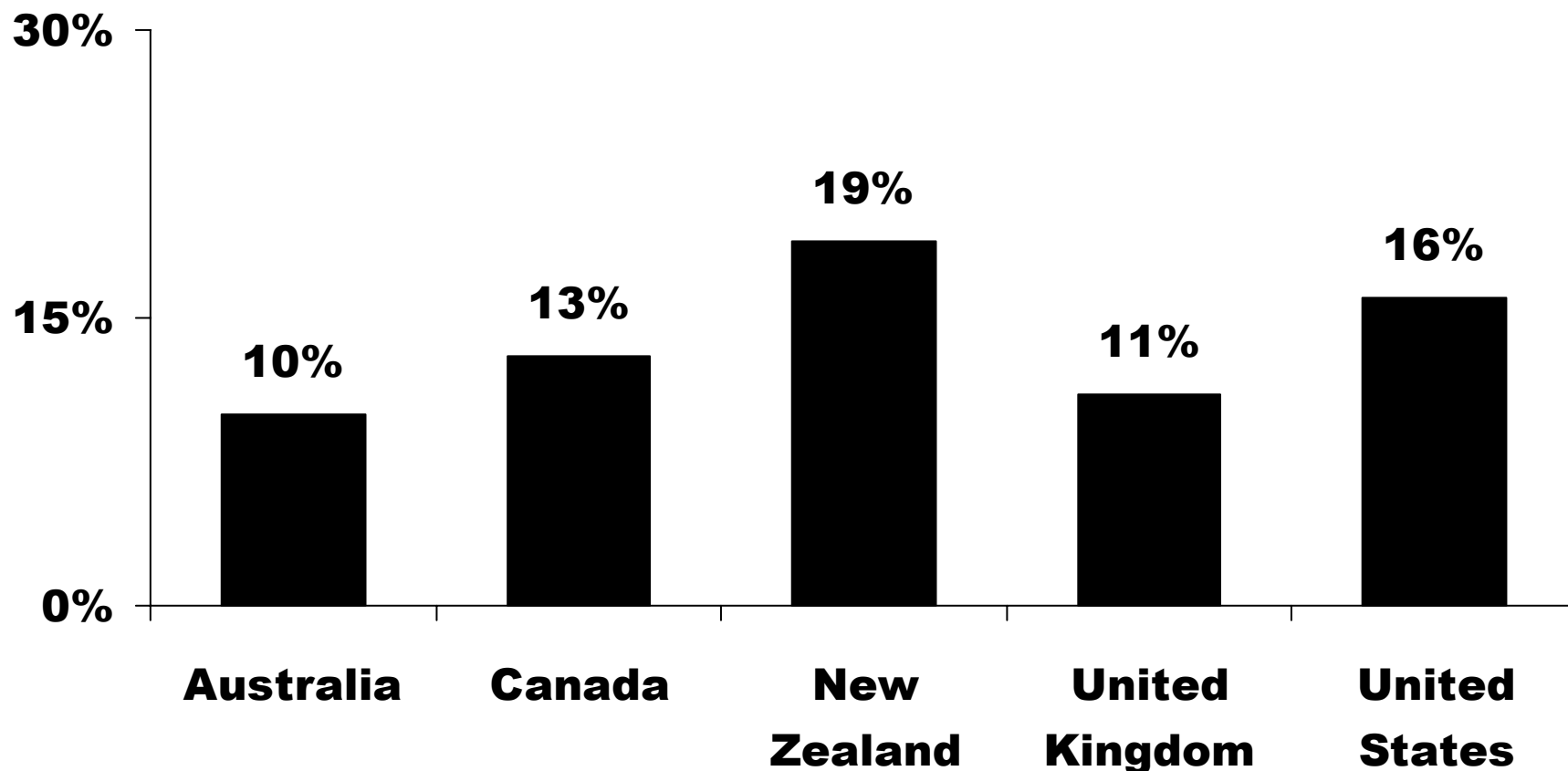
# Difficulties Affording Prescription Medications

**Percent of the elderly who did not fill a prescription for financial reasons**



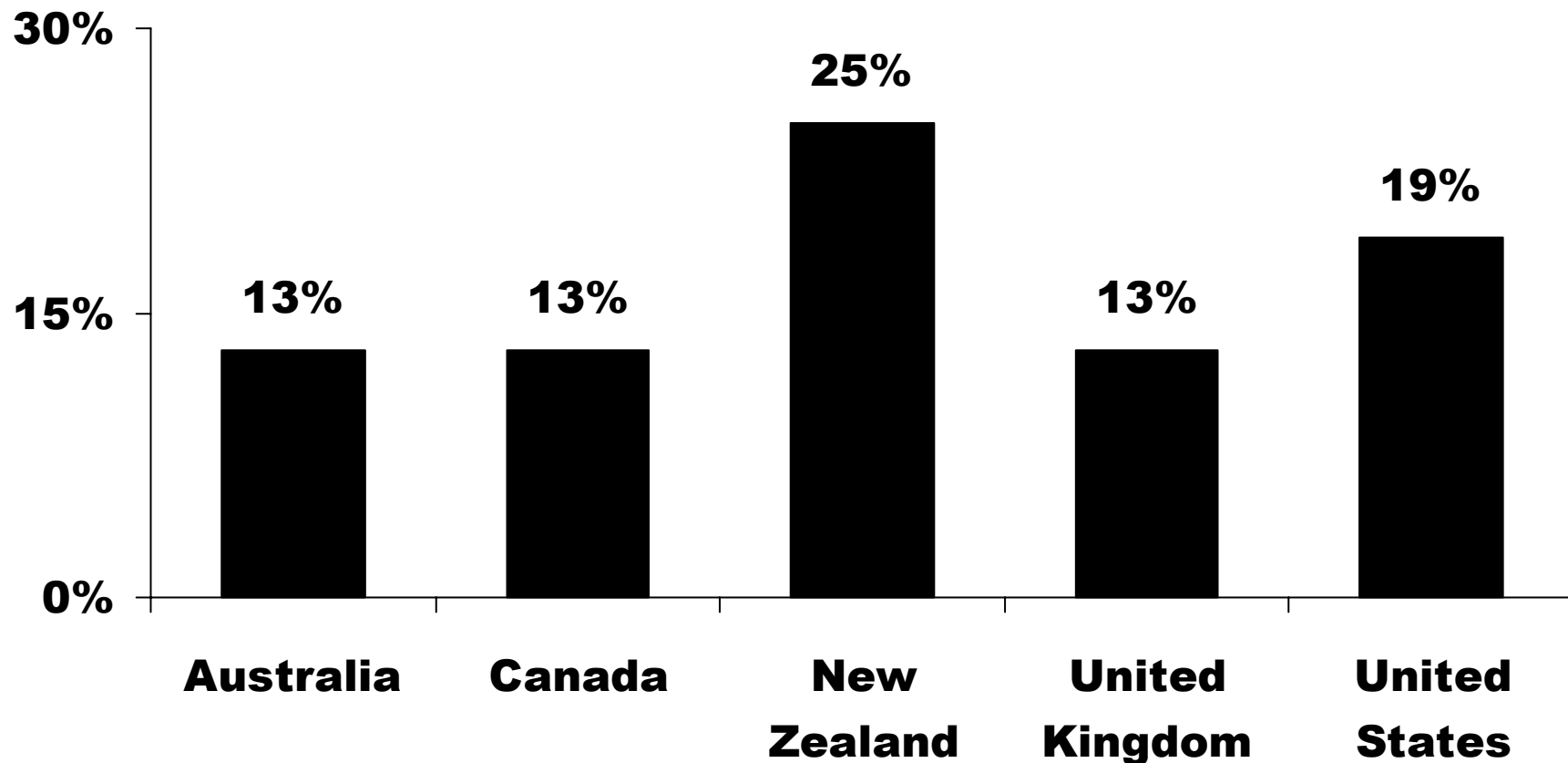
# Concerns About the Impact of Health Problems

Percent of the elderly who are “very concerned” they will have to leave the place they are living now because of health problems



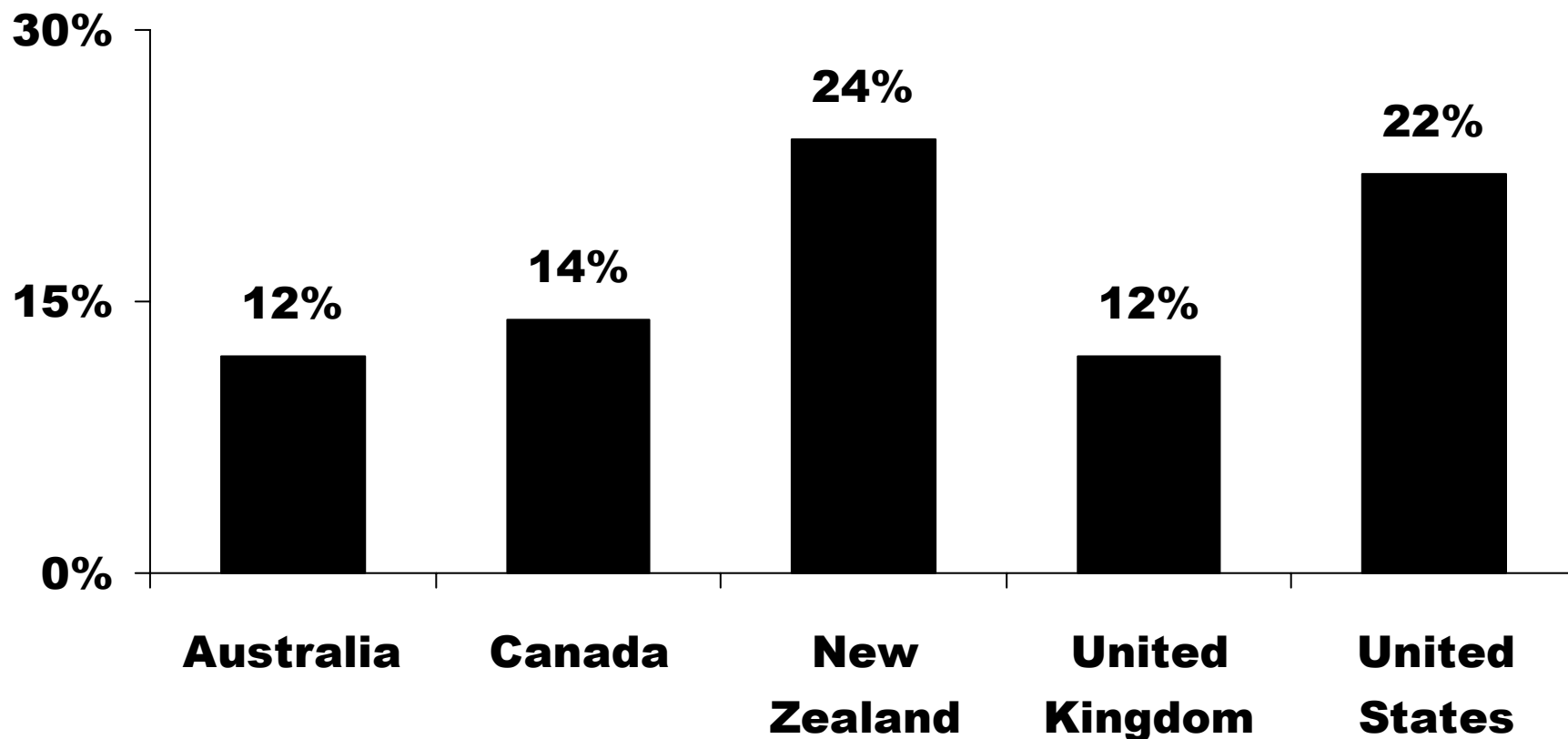
# Concerns About Becoming a Burden on Family

Percent of the elderly who are “very concerned” they will become a burden on their family



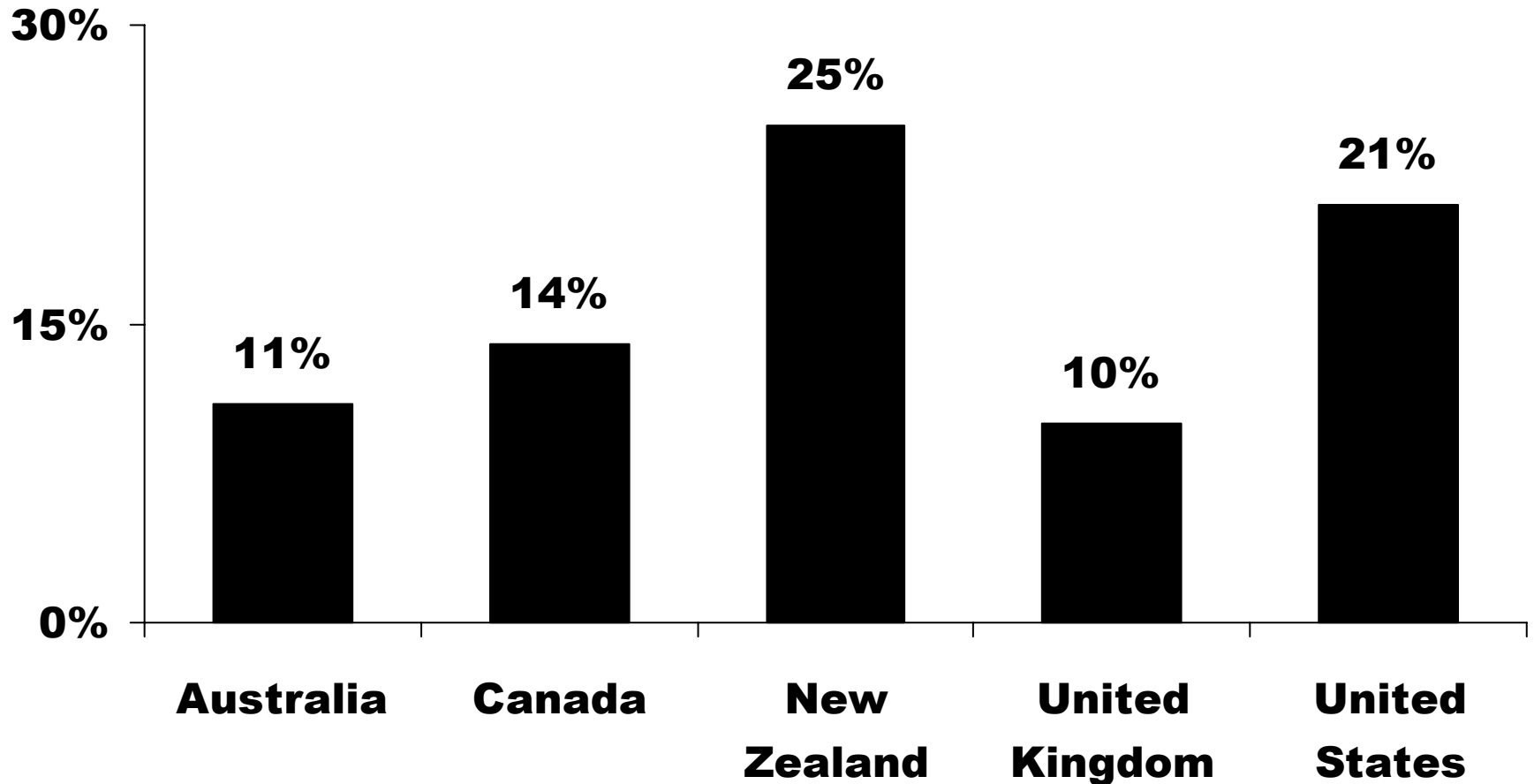
# Concerns About the Cost of Long-Term Care

**Percent of the elderly who are “very concerned” they will not have enough money or insurance to pay for the long-term care services they will need**



# Concerns About Paying for Needed Care

**Percent of the elderly who are “very concerned” they will not be able to pay for the medical care they need**

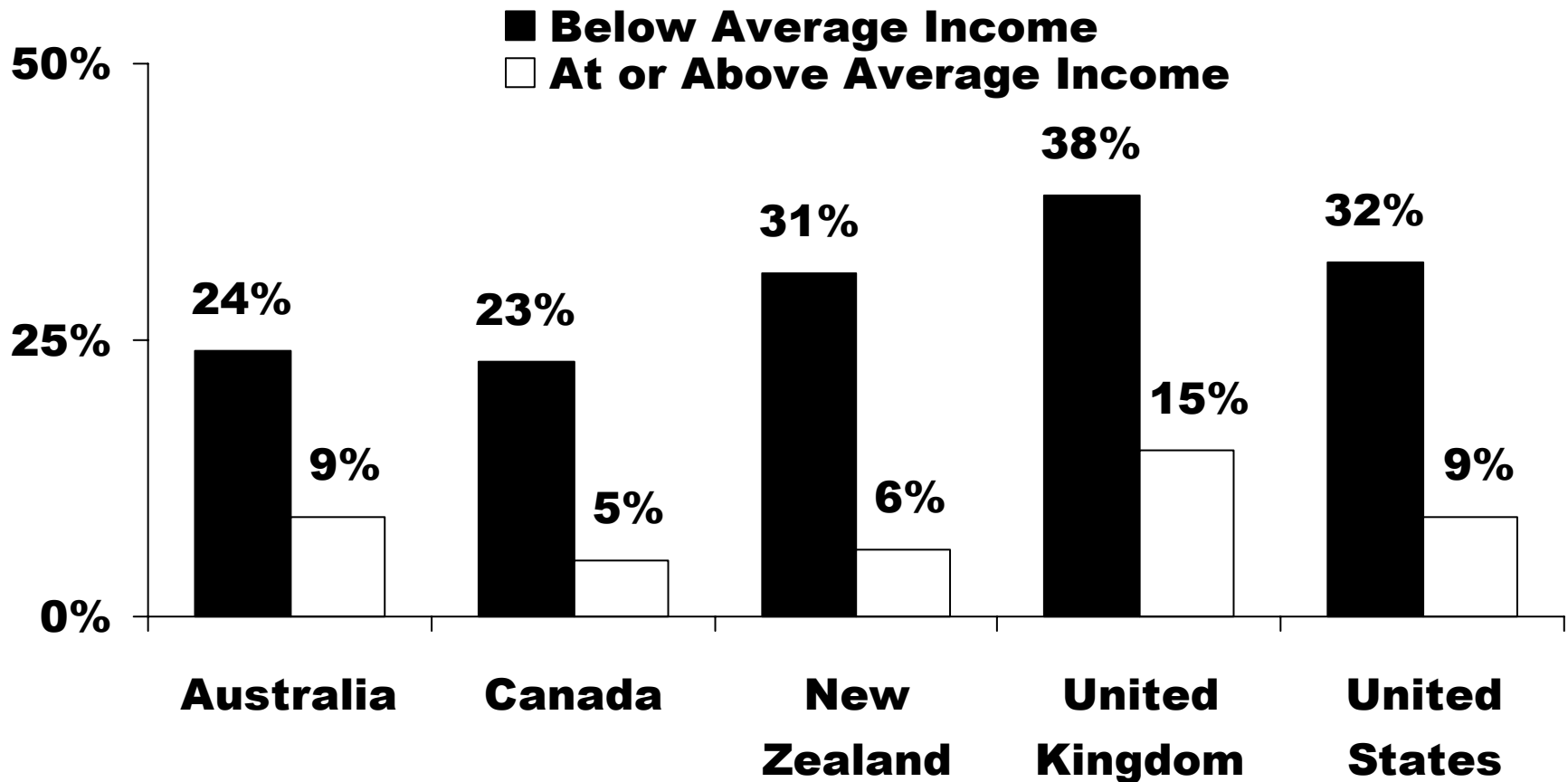


# **Disadvantaged Groups: The Poor Elderly**



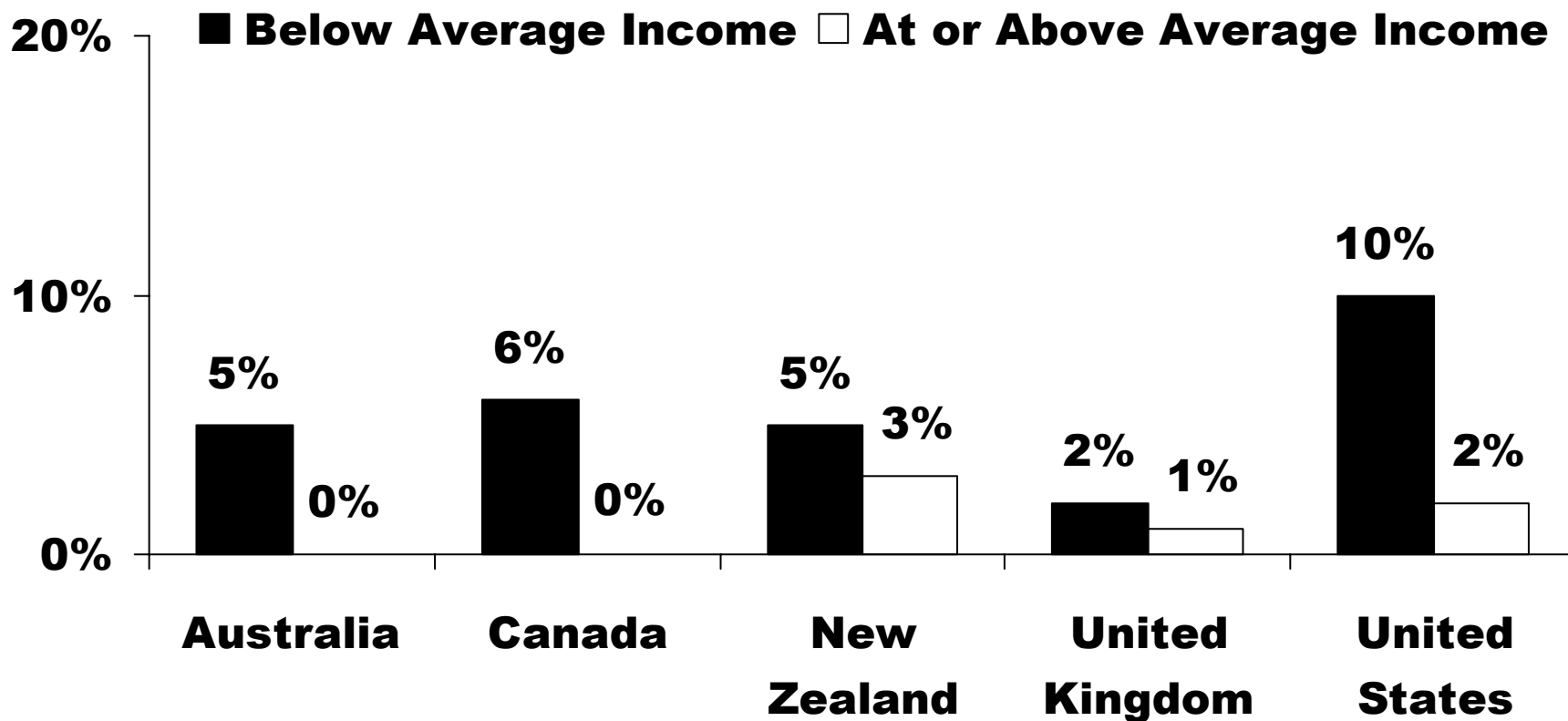
# Difficulty Meeting Regular Expenses

Percent of the elderly with difficulty meeting regular expenses



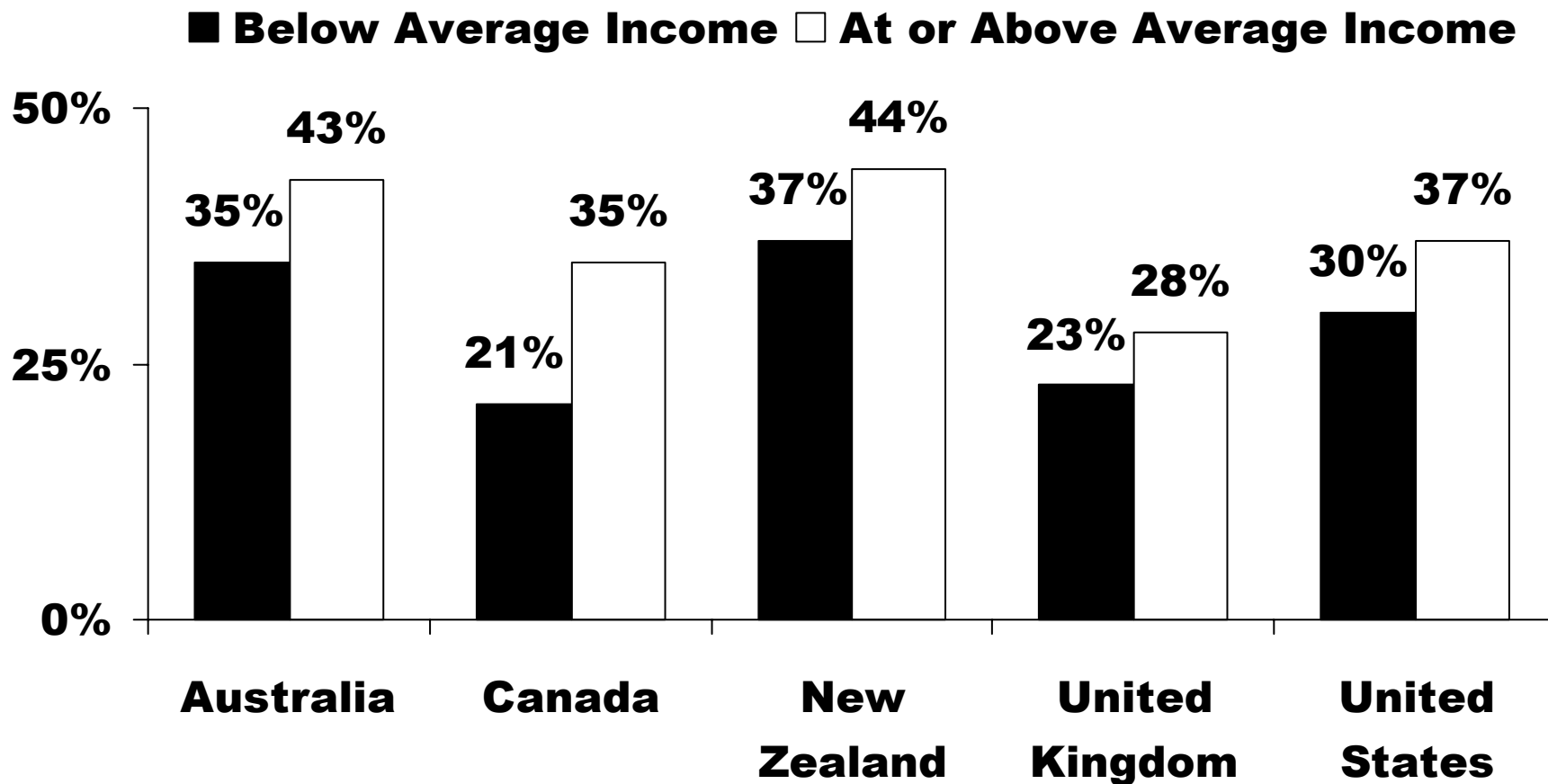
# Ability to Afford Health Care

**Percent of the elderly who had problems paying their medical bills in the past year**



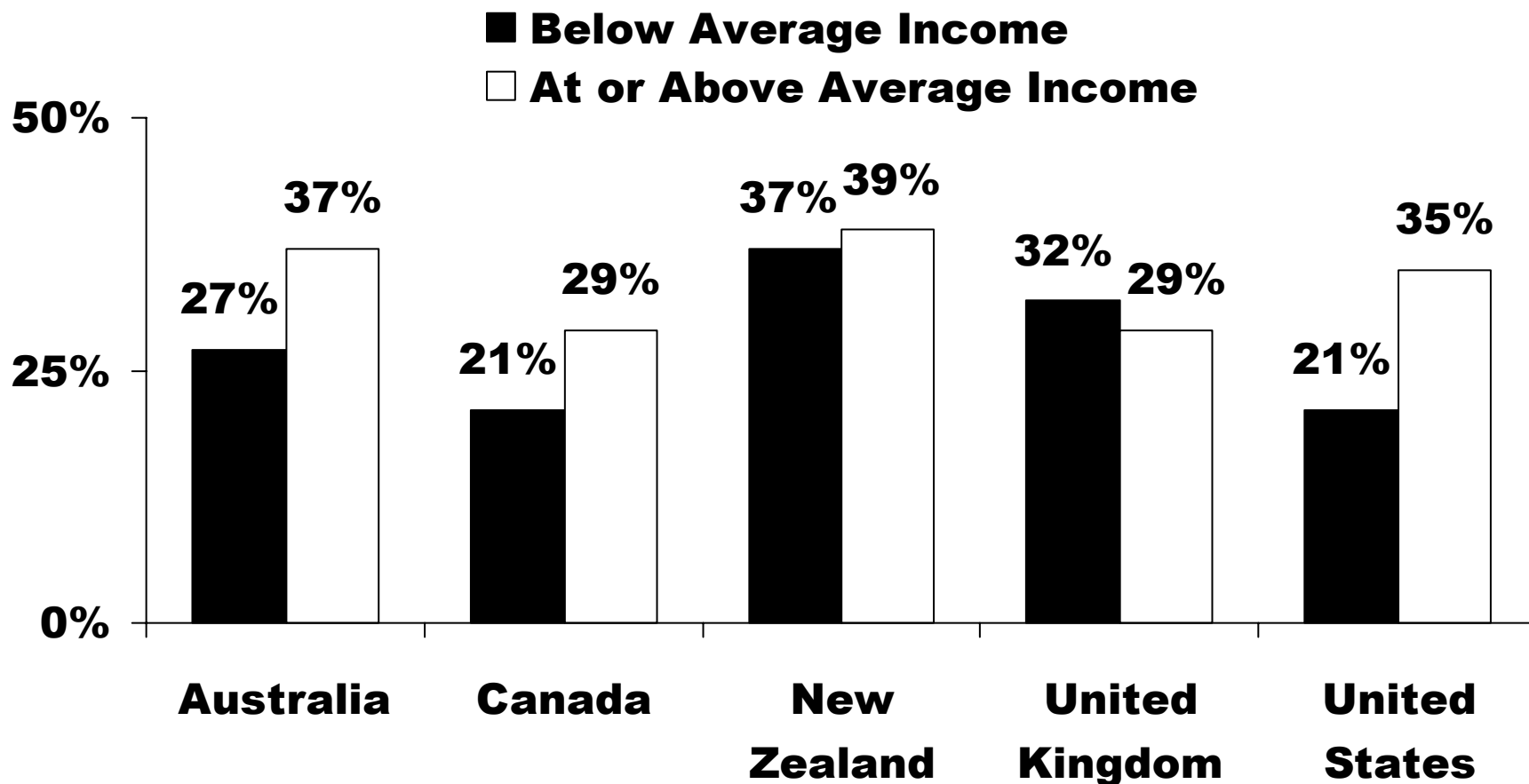
# Perceived Quality of Care

Percent of the elderly who rated the medical care they received in the past year as “excellent”



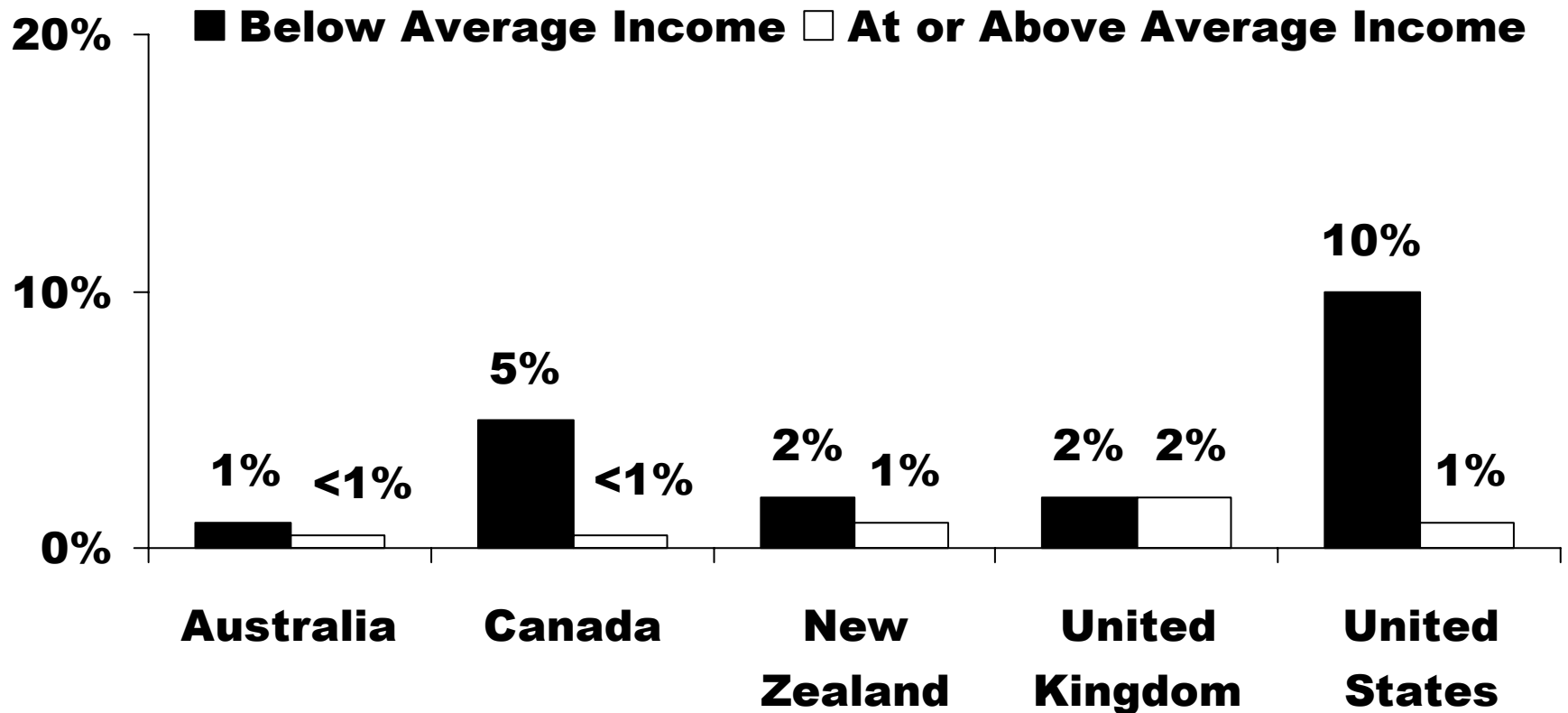
# Ratings of Hospital Experience

**Percent of the elderly who had been hospitalized in the past two years and rated the overall experience as “excellent”**



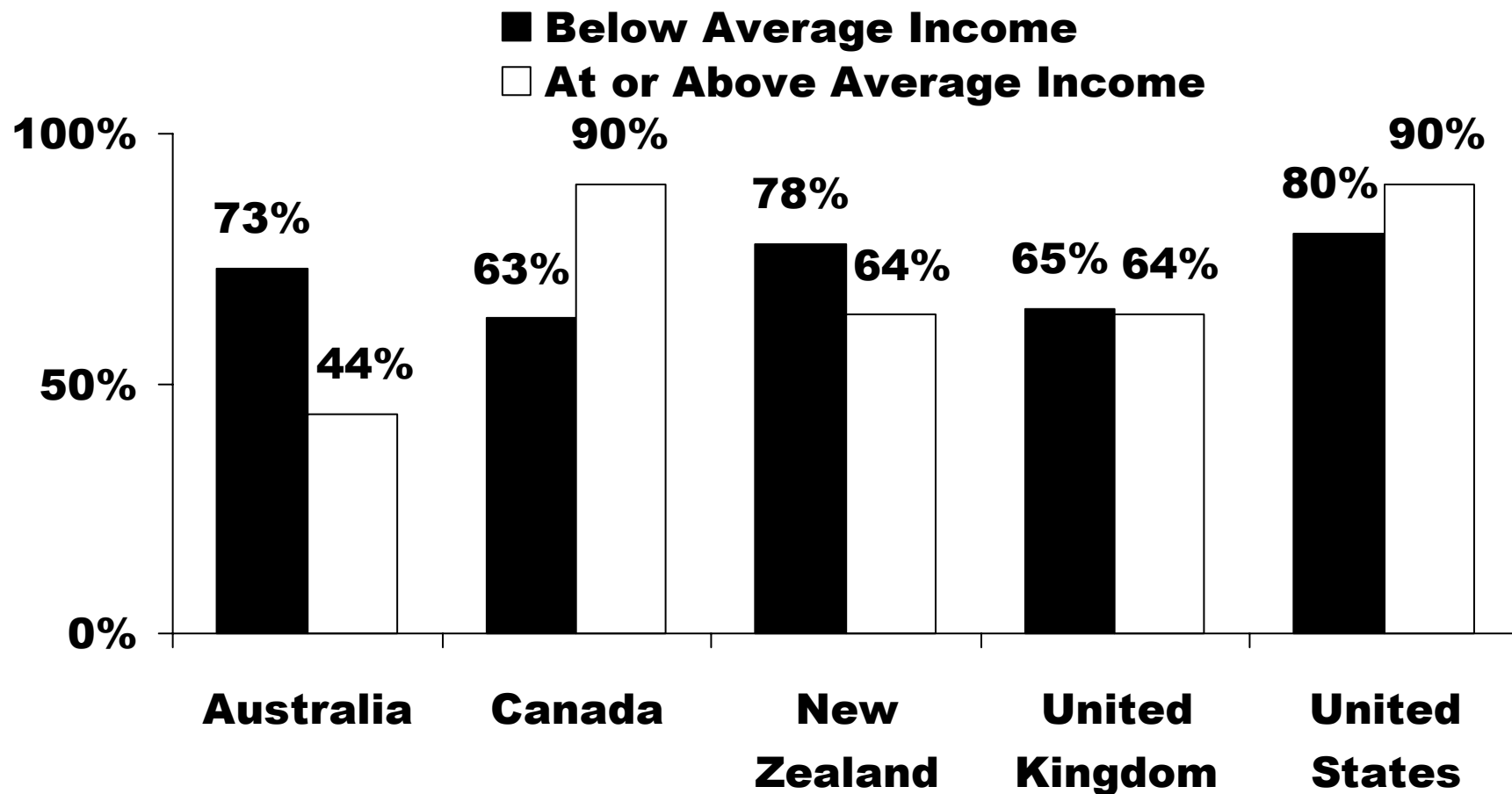
# Ability to Afford Prescription Medications

Percent of the elderly who could not afford to fill a prescription in the past year



# Receipt of Home Health Services

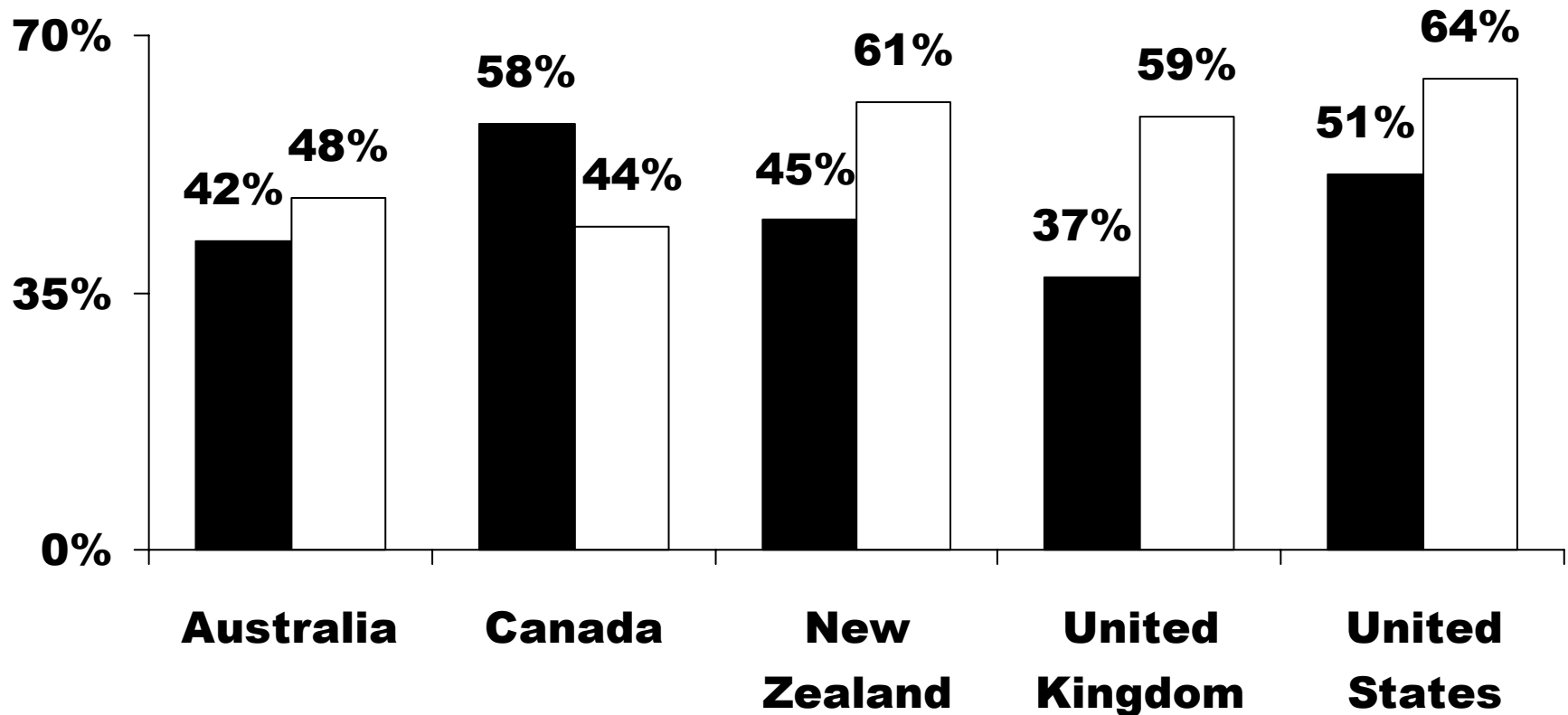
Percent of the elderly who have needed and received home health services



# Caregivers Who Receive Additional Help

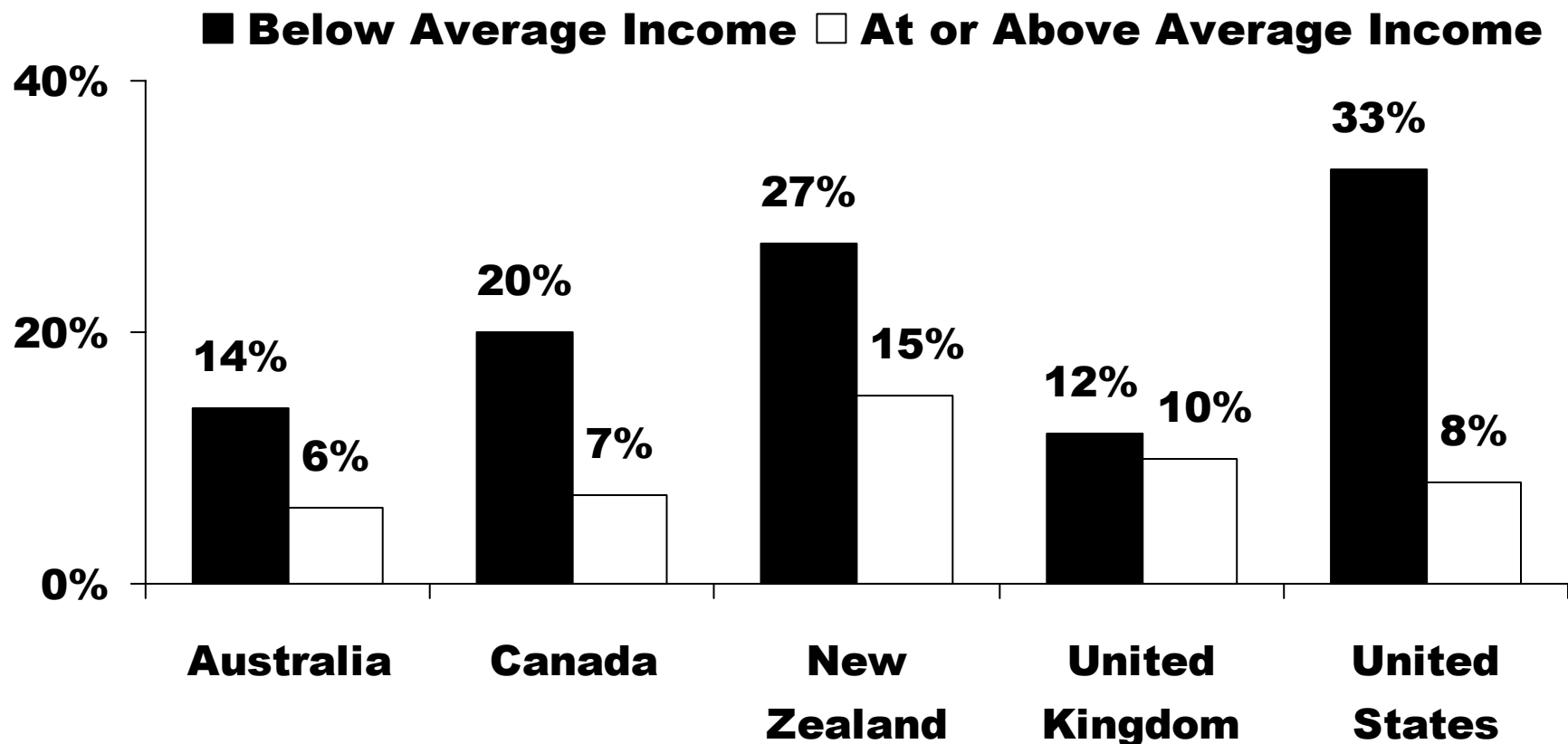
**Percent of elderly caregivers whose care recipient received paid home health care**

■ **Below Average Income**    □ **At or Above Average Income**



# Concern About the Affordability of Long-Term Care

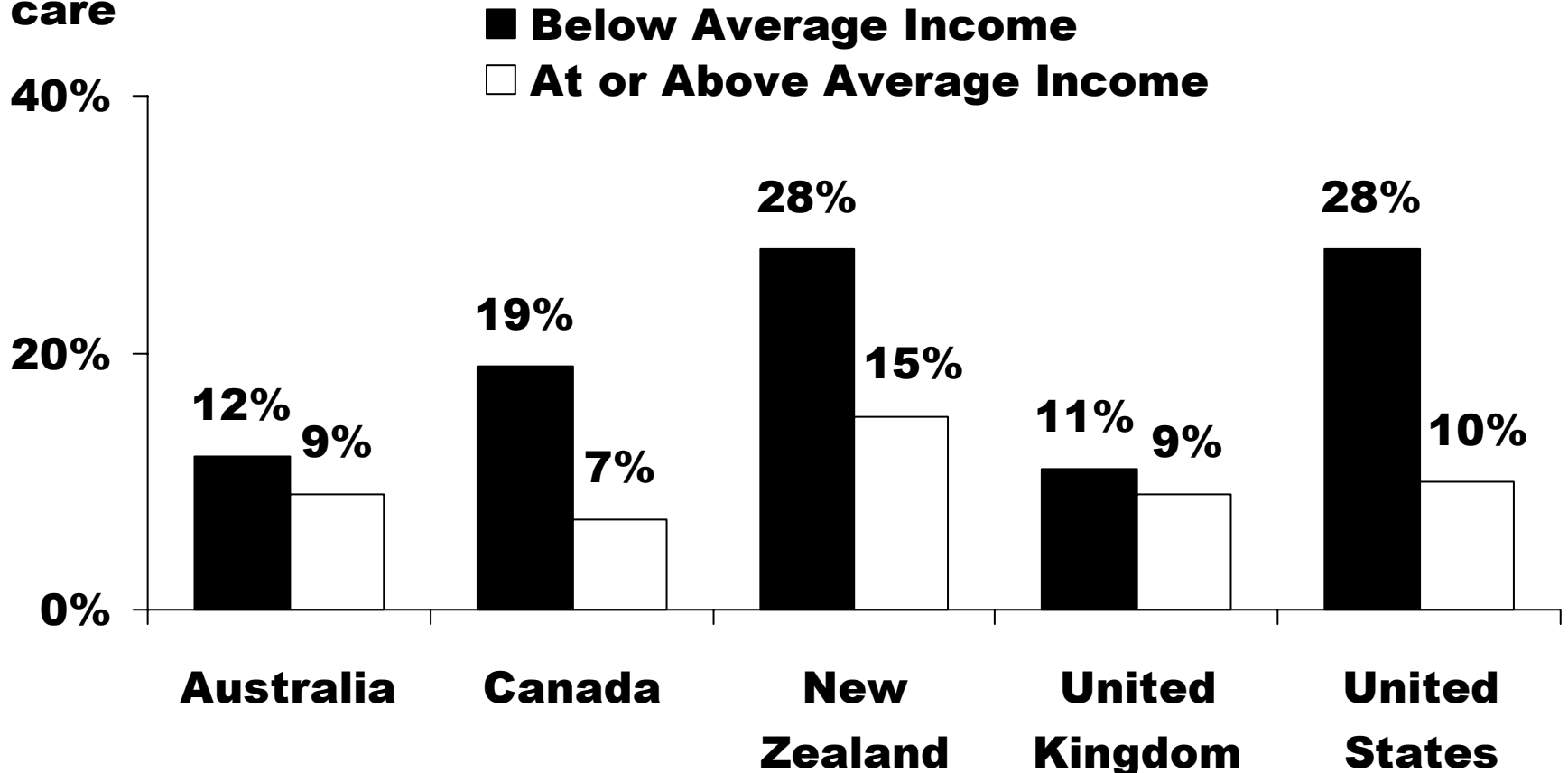
Percent of the elderly who are “very concerned” that they will need long-term care and will be unable to pay for it





# Concern About Being Unable to Pay for Needed Care

Percent of the elderly who are “very concerned” that they will have large medical expenses and will be unable to pay for needed care

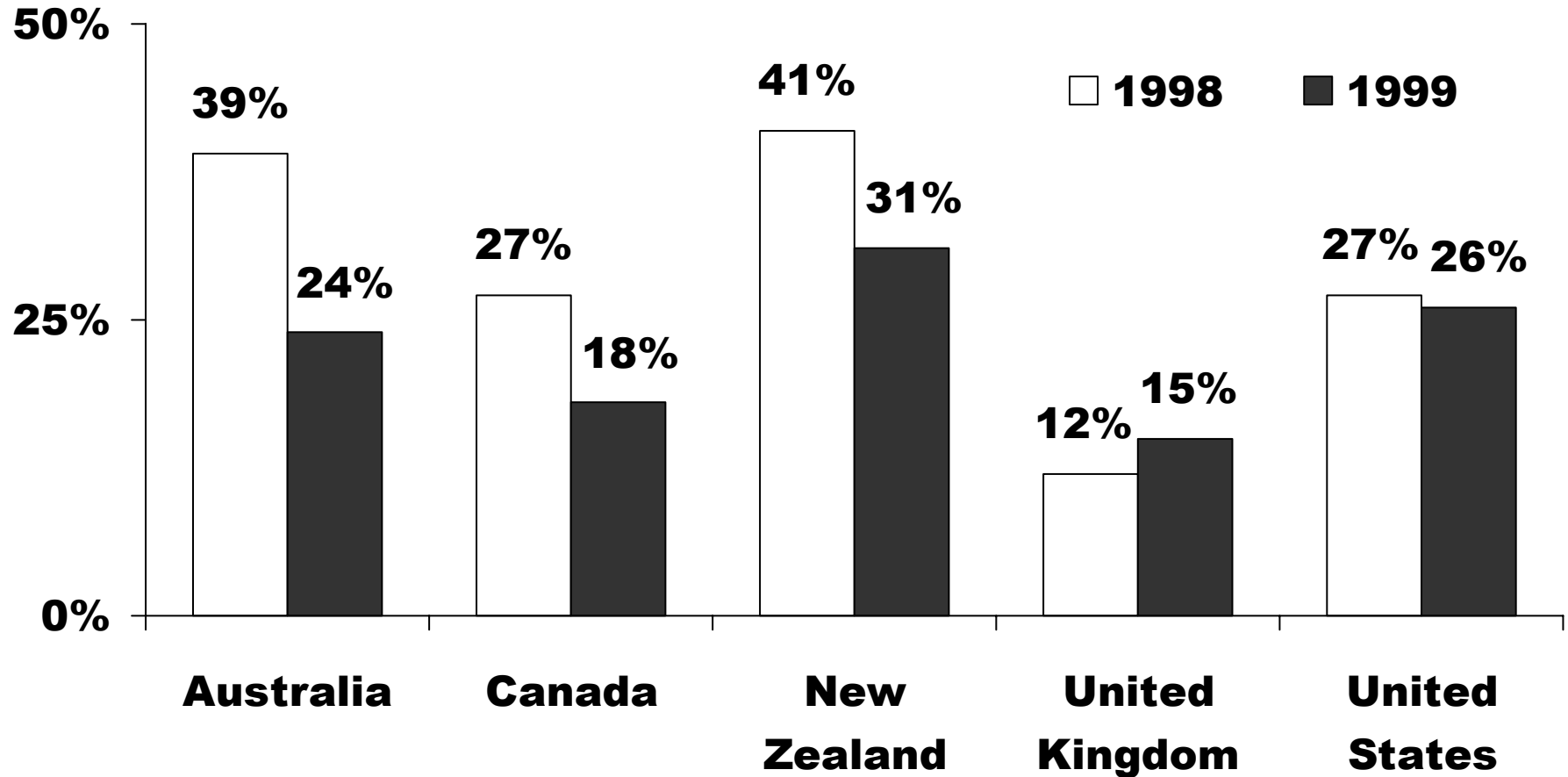


# **Views of the System**

# The Elderly's View of Their Health Care System

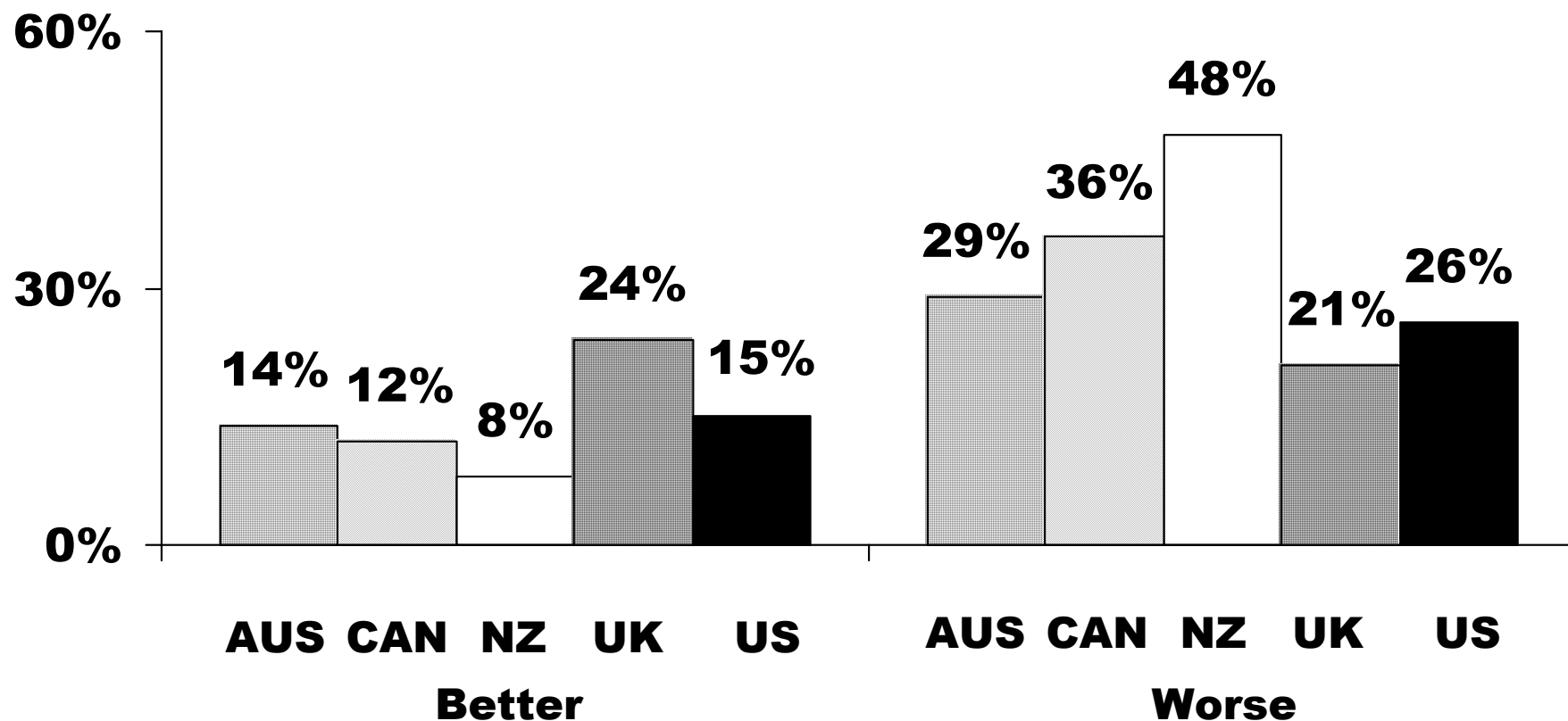
	<b>Australia</b>	<b>Canada</b>	<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>United States</b>
<b>System works well- only minor changes needed</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Some good things but fundamental change is needed</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>System has so much wrong it needs complete rebuilding</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>26%</b>

# Percent of the Elderly Population Saying Their Health Care System Needs to Be Completely Rebuilt



# Perceptions of Recent Changes in the Quality of Medical Care for the Elderly

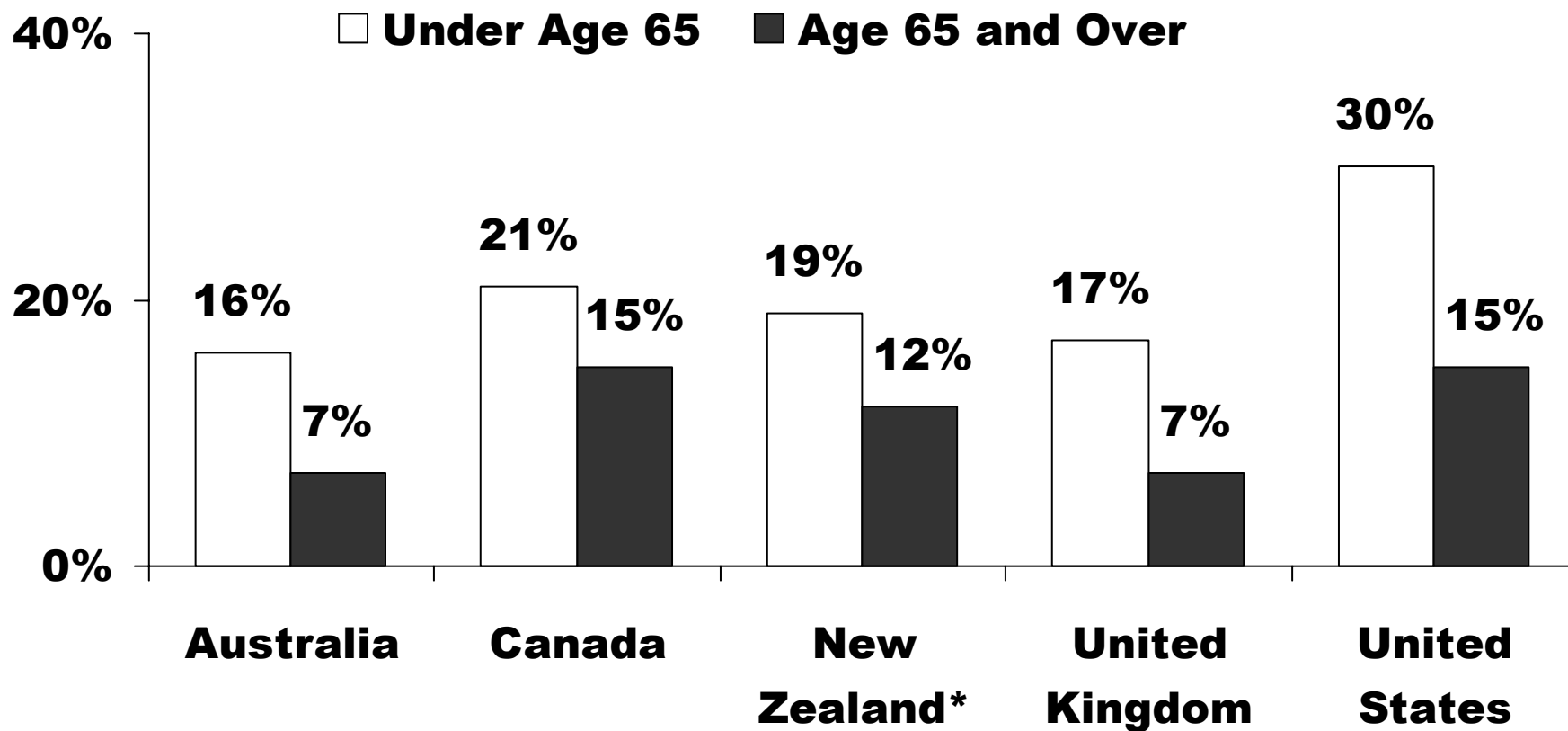
**Percent of the elderly saying that medical care for the elderly is better/worse compared with five years ago**



**Comparisons of Care  
Experiences for the Under and  
Over Age 65 Populations in  
Five Nations**

# Difficulty Getting Needed Care

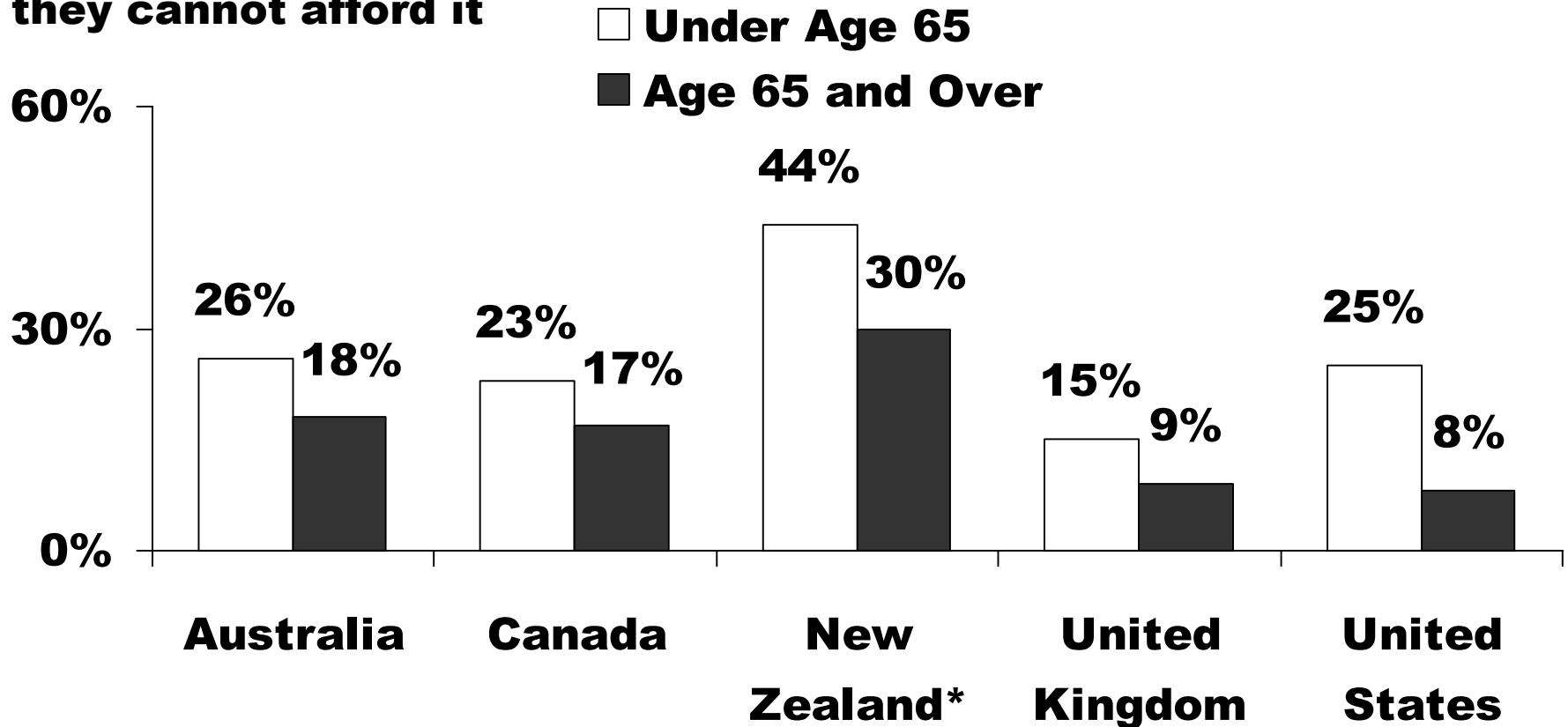
Percent who felt it was “extremely,” “very,” or “somewhat” difficult to get needed medical care



\* The age break in New Zealand is “under age 70” and “age 70 and over.”

# Worries About Not Being Able to Afford Needed Care

**Percent who are “very worried” that if they become seriously ill, they will not be able to get the medical care they need because they cannot afford it**

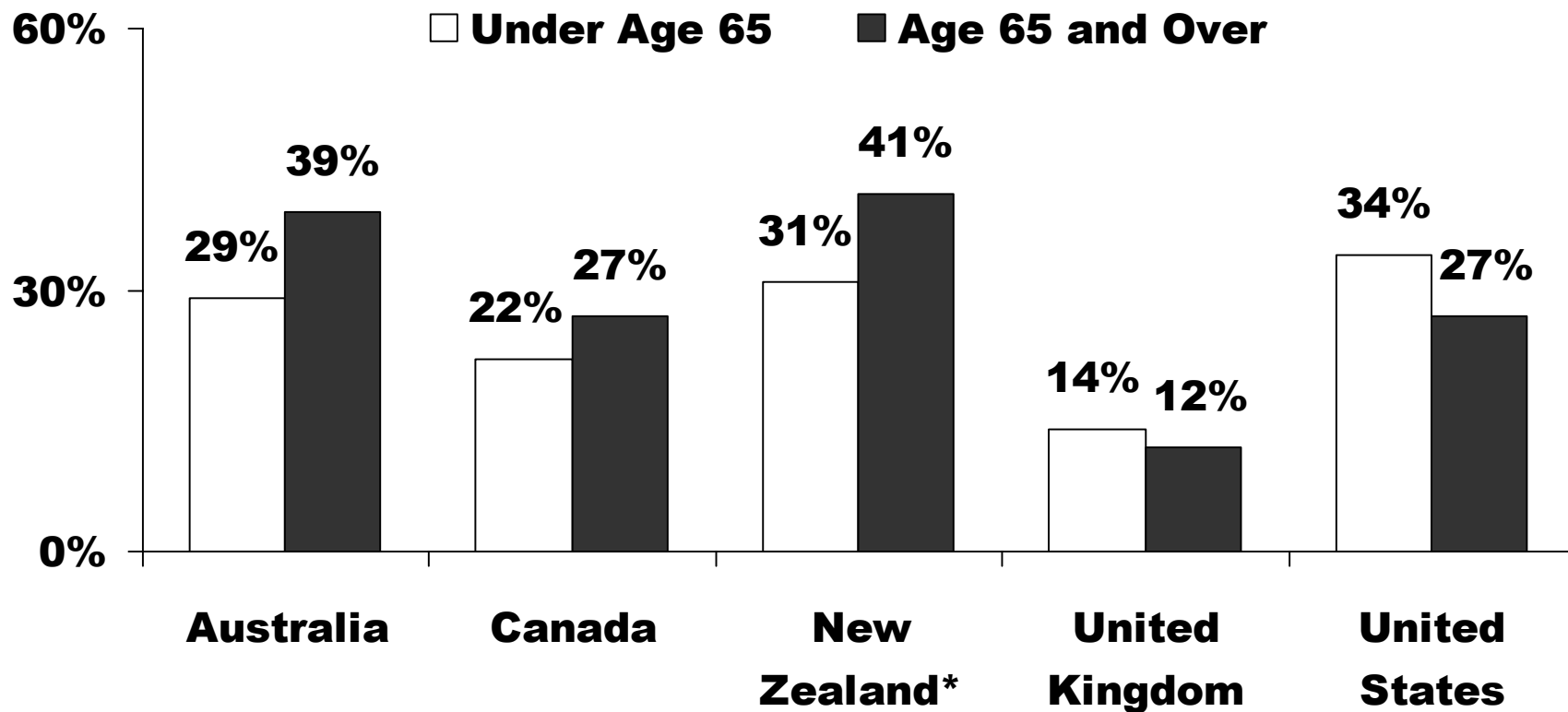


\* The age break in New Zealand is “under age 70” and “age 70 and over.”



# Views of the Health Care System

**Percent who think their health care system has so much wrong with it that it needs to be completely rebuilt**



\* The age break in New Zealand is "under age 70" and "age 70 and over."

# Methodology

**The Commonwealth Fund 1999 International Health Policy Survey of the Elderly consisted of telephone interviews with 3,515 with adults age 65 or older regarding their health care experiences and related concerns in five countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Sample sizes in each country were 701, 700, 700, 714 and 700 respectively. The survey was commissioned by The Commonwealth Fund and conducted by Harris Interactive, Inc. and their international affiliates from April to June 1999.**

**Researchers from the Harvard School of Public Health, Harris Interactive and the Commonwealth Fund collaborated in the design of the common survey instrument that was administered in all countries. Several measures were taken or adapted from prior instruments developed for prior international health surveys. Instruments were reviewed by health care experts in all nations and presented in each nation. The average length of survey administration was 12 minutes in each of the five nations.**