

Canadian Pharmacare: A Tough Pill to Swallow

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Abstract

- Non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, are elevating the global burden of disease.
- The current discourse surrounding pharmacare accessibility heavily focuses on the perils of intellectual property rights.
- This work is an exploration of the governance mechanisms and power structures that are in place both locally and globally. This work also presents a case study of the Cuban healthcare system to appraise its quality and the possibility of expanding similar practises to the Canadian system.

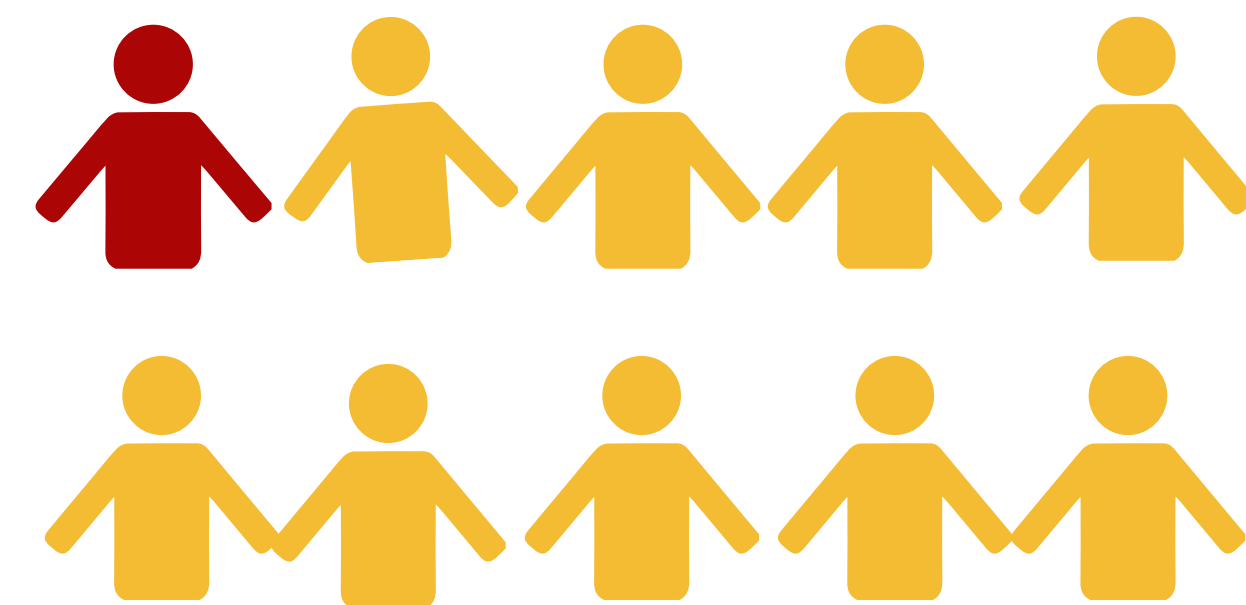
Objectives

- To explore the current pharmaceutical governance mechanisms with a focus on the foundational ideologies that drive them.
- Assess the feasibility of national pharamcare system in Canada.

Methodology

A scoping literature review of scholarly peer-reviewed sources on journal databases. Grey literature, course readings, and news media was included.

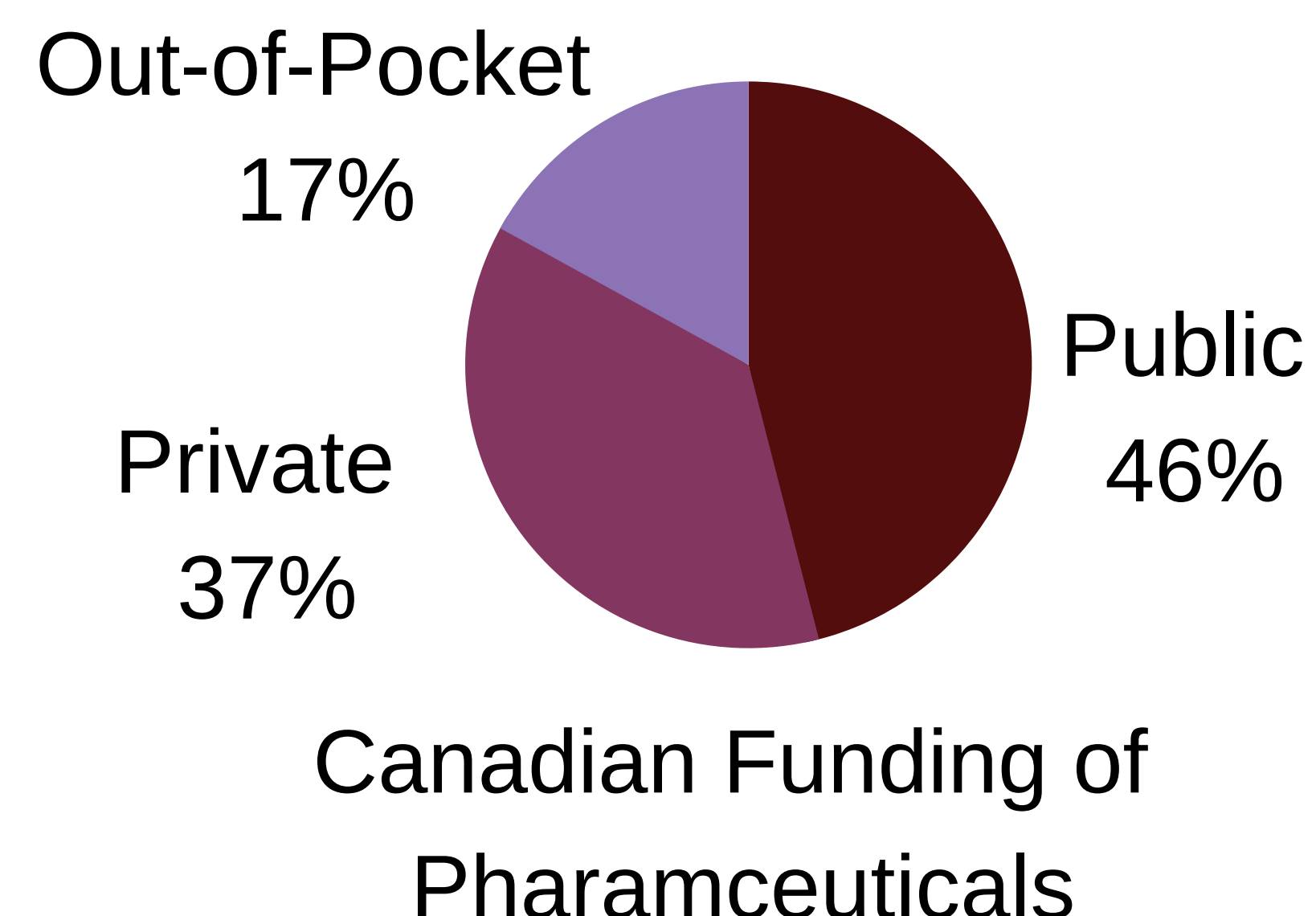
Background



1 in 10 Canadians can't afford their medications



Canadians pay more for prescriptions than other country in the world.



Results



- Current pharmaceutical governance models are inadequate in protecting global health interests.



- A self-sufficient national pharmaceutical system like that of Cuba can create health outcomes that surpass high income counterparts.



- Current ideologies/practices are only effective in profit creation, not the creation of equitable health outcomes.

Implications

This knowledge will inform awareness campaigns and possible policy reform in the Canadian context. As the Canadian public and government continue to discuss the possibility of implementing a national pharmacare program, insight on how this nation can meet the needs and become a global provider would be incredibly valuable.