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# The Great 'Prevention' Myth

This is an opinion item.

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**Source** [The Washington Post](#)

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**URL** <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/13/AR2009081302898.html>

**Quote**

“ "Back on Earth, a rigorous study in the journal *Circulation* found that for cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, "if all the recommended prevention activities were applied with 100 percent success," the prevention would cost almost 10 times as much as the savings, increasing the country's total medical bill by 162 percent. That's because prevention applied to large populations is very expensive, as shown by another report Elmendorf cites, a definitive review in the *New England Journal of Medicine* of hundreds of studies that found that more than 80 percent of preventive measures added to medical costs." ”

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This item argues against the position [Act should be passed](#) on the topic [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#).