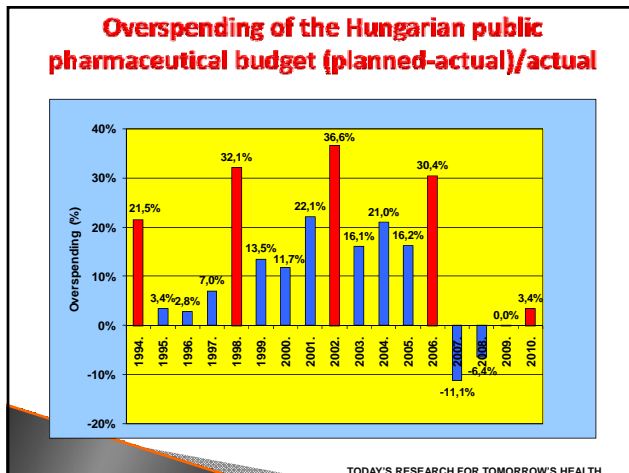
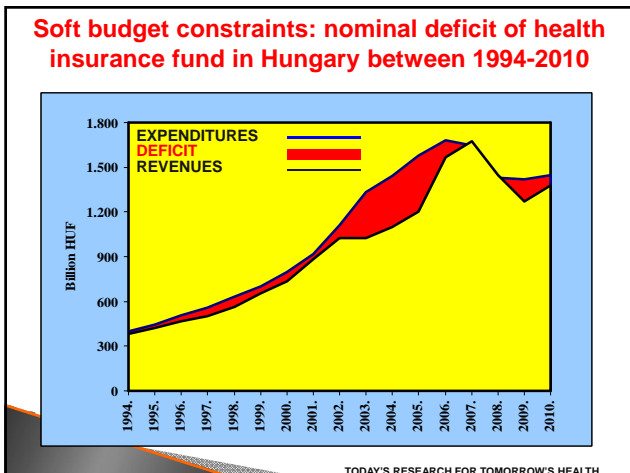
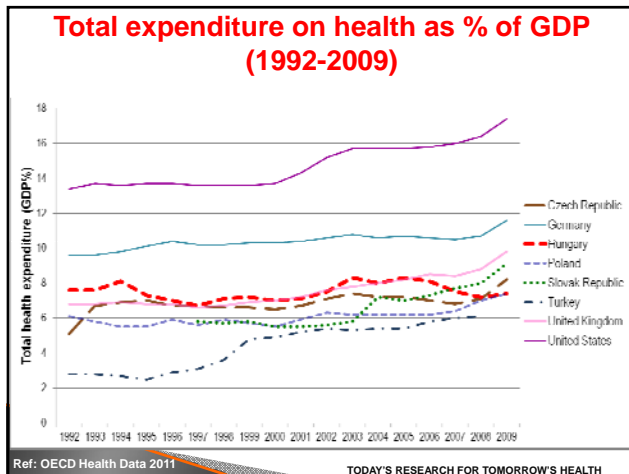


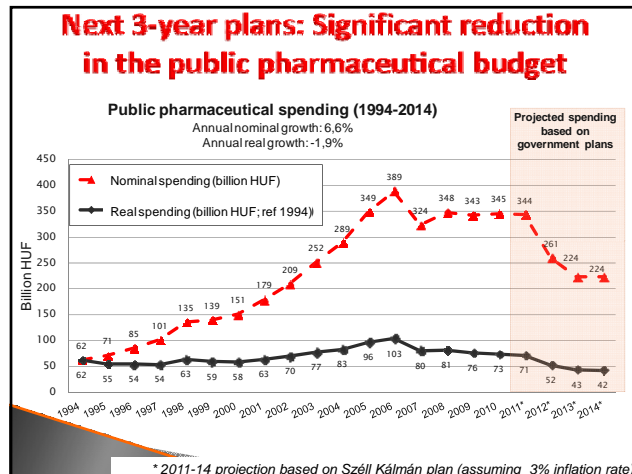
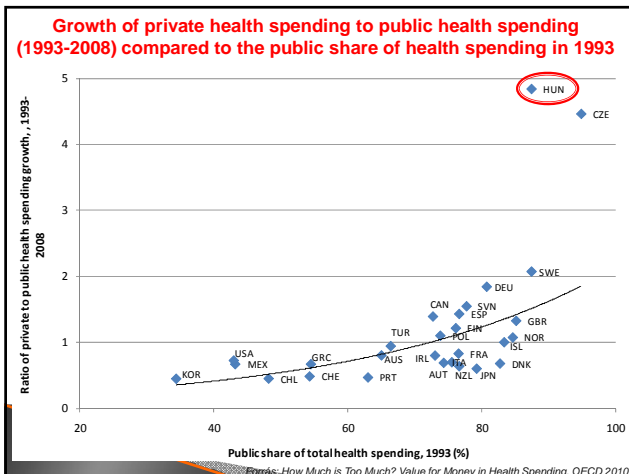



IMPLICATIONS OF ECONOMIC CRISIS ON HEALTH CARE DECISION-MAKING IN HUNGARY

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Conclusion (1)

- ▶ Hungary has implemented successful cost-containment measures to control the public health expenditure since 1994.
- ▶ Consequently the health care sector is seriously under-resourced
- ▶ Health care sector (providers; industry) is close to collapse
 - Hospitals have huge deficit, despite significant reduction of acute care beds
 - Many physicians and nurses leave the country and move to Western-Europe for significantly greater salary → shortage of specialists (e.g. in anesthesiology, pathology, traumatology)
 - Average age of primary care physicians is >62, many GP practices are vacant, especially in the countryside
 - Hundreds of young resident physicians plan to hand in resignation in January
 - Expected real public pharmaceutical spending in 2013: 68% of spending in 1994
 - Private out-of-pocket health care spending is above EU average with exceptionally high growth rate
- ▶ Further cost-containment measures are expected

TODAY'S RESEARCH FOR TOMORROW'S HEALTH

HTA & health economics in Hungary

- ▶ In mid 90's the World Bank supported the establishment of two new schools (Public Health and Health Care Management)
- ▶ Tutors were trained in foreign universities → some professionals left the country, but many stayed or returned
- ▶ Number of trained professionals were sufficient, they established HTA & health economic centers in Hungarian universities for academic research and graduate & postgraduate training
- ▶ In 2002 the Hungarian Health Economics Association was established (→ ISPOR Hungary Chapter 2007)
- ▶ Hungary included HTA into decision algorithms earlier than neighbor countries → mandatory cost-effectiveness criterion prior to reimbursement of pharmaceuticals since 2003 and medical devices since 2011
- ▶ Public HTA Office was established in 2003
- ▶ Published methodological guidelines for economic evaluations and transparent critical appraisal methodology

TODAY'S RESEARCH FOR TOMORROW'S HEALTH

Conclusion (2)

- ▶ Hungary has sufficient human resources capacity and initial experience to implement evidence based health policy and health care financing.
- ▶ However reimbursement and policy decisions are still not fully transparent, and the emphasis is mainly on cost-containment (i.e. budget impact).
- ▶ The most critical question for policy-makers is whether they really want to improve the rationale of health care decision making or should they just concentrate on reducing public health care spending (as in recent years).
- ▶ Implementation of evidence based health policy is more complicated route in the short-term, but it may pay off in the long term.

TODAY'S RESEARCH FOR TOMORROW'S HEALTH