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Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.med.cardiology/2005-07/msg01125.html>

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"Everywhere one looks, drug money is sloshing about. During the 1990s, the U.S. National Institute of Health's cholesterol guidelines estimated that 13 million Americans could benefit from treatment with statins—new cholesterol-lowering drugs. In 2001, a new panel of experts revised that number upwards, to 36 million. In 2004, another panel updated the guidelines again, to 40 million, a number that included many Americans with relatively low risk of a future heart attack. Why was this? Was it actually true that statins could now benefit not only the sick, but the healthy as well? It's possible. But it's hard to ignore the fact that eight of the nine experts who wrote the 2004 guidelines also serve as paid speakers, consultants, or researchers to drug companies—companies that stood to reap billions from overnight changes that relabeled healthy people as sick and created a new market for statins.

This doesn't mean the experts deliberately fudged the results, although many researchers who aren't on the take, such as Dr. John Abramson of Harvard, believe that statins, while useful for those who have suffered heart attacks, offer very little benefit to healthy individuals, and may even cause harmful side-effects."

http://www.motherjones.com/commentary/columns/2005/07/selling_sickness.html

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