Health Care Crisis

Health Care as a Social Problem
Health

- Health is state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being
- Health indicators for a society:
  - Life expectancy: estimate of the average lifetime of people born in a specific year
  - Number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births
  - Good indication of societies preventive medical care
Health and Illness: A Global Perspective
Health and Illness: A Global Perspective

• High-Income Nations
  • Chronic diseases – an illness that has a long-term development
    • More prevalent in high-income countries
    • In U.S., a high fat diet and little physical work result in 2/3 of adults as overweight

• Low-Income Nations
  • Poverty and poor health
    • Poverty and malnutrition
    • Poverty and lack of safe drinking water
    • Poverty and poor sanitation
  • Acute disease-illness that strikes suddenly
    • Infectious diseases
Health Care Problems in the U.S.

• U.S. Health Care System
  • Direct-fee system – medical care system
    • Patients or their insurers pay directly for the services of physicians and hospitals
• Healthcare is **expensive** and growing in cost
• Healthcare **quality** is uneven, meaning wealthy people have good healthcare and the poor have low quality care or no care at all
• Quality of healthcare and life outcomes is **unequal** and varies significantly by race.
Cost and Access

- Healthcare in the US is expensive
  - Employer health insurance premiums were $13,375 for a family and $4824 for a single person
  - Medical insurance does not cover all the cost of care
- Medicare – part of social security for those over 65
- Medicaid - serves the poor who are
  - Pregnant; Blind; Permanently disabled; Elderly; Families with dependent children
- 50 million Americans lack health insurance
  - Affordable Healthcare act in progress
Cost of Healthcare in the US

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>696.0</td>
<td>990.2</td>
<td>1,309.4</td>
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<td>Annual percent change</td>
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<td>5.7</td>
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<td>Percent of gross domestic product</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>16.2</td>
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<td>Private expenditures</td>
<td>413.5</td>
<td>533.6</td>
<td>714.9</td>
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<td>Health services and supplies</td>
<td>401.9</td>
<td>521.1</td>
<td>697.3</td>
<td>1,138.1</td>
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<td>Out-of-pocket payments</td>
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<td>146.5</td>
<td>192.6</td>
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<td>Insurance premiums</td>
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<td>783.2</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Medical research</td>
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<td>1.4</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<td>Public expenditures</td>
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<td>456.6</td>
<td>594.6</td>
<td>1,106.7</td>
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<td>Percent federal or public</td>
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<td>70.6</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>73.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health services and supplies</td>
<td>267.7</td>
<td>436.5</td>
<td>564.2</td>
<td>1,043.1</td>
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Why is it so Expensive?

- Increased cost in technology use and equipment
- The free rider problem for uninsured
  - “Anna goes to the emergency room”
  - Government subsidies of hospital emergency rooms
- Lack of collective bargaining power with insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies
US Quality of Healthcare

• According to the WHO (World Health Org) the US ranks 38th on quality of healthcare
  • Extreme inequality of healthcare
  • High cost (most expensive in the world)
  • Infant mortality rate is 6.8/1000 live births which is 34th in the world
  • United States life expectancy is 78 years old, which is 51st in the world.
Inequality and Health: Class, Ethnicity, and Race

- Health follows wealth-ability to pay
  - Income and access to health care
  - Difference in the environment of the rich and poor and health
- Race and health
  - Race and poverty rate; Prenatal care; Racial bias and health
INEQUALITY AND HEALTH: CLASS, ETHNICITY, AND RACE

**Graph:**

"Needed medical care delayed or not received, 1999–2009."

- **18–44 years**
  - Uninsured
  - Medicaid
  - Private

- **45–64 years**
  - Uninsured
  - Medicaid
  - Private

*Year*:
- 1999
- 2009
INEQUALITY AND HEALTH: CLASS, ETHNICITY, AND RACE

Diversity Snapshot

Figure 9-4  Life Expectancy for U.S. Children Born in 2010
Inequality Healthcare Problems

- **Conflict:**
  - Race-, class-, and gender-based inequities cause health problems
  - Inequality in U.S. health care will be perpetuated by 3 things:
    - High health care costs due to advanced services and expensive medicine and technology
    - Abuse of existing systems by health care professionals:
      - Overcharge, unnecessary services, services not received
    - Aging population will put a strain on Medicare and Medicaid
Types of Mental Disorders

• Classifications of disorders prepared by American Psychiatric Association
  • DSM IV – Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
  • Many disorders have both biological and social causes
• No significant differences in diagnosable mental illness between:
  • African Americans and whites
  • Racism does impact the psychological well-being of both African Americans and whites
• Social class is related to mental illness
• Gender differences in Mental Illness
Treatment Strategies

• Treating the mentally ill is a recent phenomena
  • Historic Use of mental hospitals
  • Psychotherapy – or talk therapy
  • Psychoactive drugs
• An estimated 26.2 percent of Americans ages 18 and older or about one in four adults suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year.
  • In America, half of people with severe symptoms of a mental health condition were found to have received no treatment in the prior 12 months.
  • Most insurance had caps, pre-existing condition exclusions or no coverage at all.
All about the Top Twenty

- France, Italy, Spain, Japan, the UK etc
- Generally combined systems
  - Include universal healthcare
  - Healthcare is a human right
  - National management of insurance/funding and cost
  - Some private and some publicly managed health providers and hospitals
- Provided
  - Reasonable cost
  - Speedy, private and high quality
  - Effective
The 2010 Health Care Law

- All people are required to get health insurance
  - Low and middle income families get subsidies
  - Insurance companies are no longer permitted to drop existing customers
    - Because they get sick; preexisting condition
  - Insurance companies cannot set caps
  - Parents can include children up to age 26
  - Medicaid expansion (optional)
    - Decreased state expenditure on uninsured (18.1 billion)
Limitations of 2010 Act

• Optional Medicaid participation and the cost of opting out
  • states would lose $8.4 billion a year by rejecting Medicaid expansion and would spend an additional $1 billion of their own money in 2016 alone on compensating providers who treat uninsured patients.

• Addition factors that impact infant mortality
  • Racial inequality
  • Uneven quality of care

• Addition factors that impact life expectancy
  • High murder rate in the US
  • Domestic Violence
  • Uneven quality of care