

3-3-2018

Analysis of American Health Systems and Serving The Uninsured

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Recommended Citation

Rismani, Mina, "Analysis of American Health Systems and Serving The Uninsured" (2018). *Wofford Bonner Scholar Senior Capstone Projects*. 2.
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Introduction and Capstone Focus

American healthcare is a unique combination of privatization and welfare. This system negatively impacts individuals too poor to afford private healthcare, yet too wealthy to receive Medicaid. This capstone highlights the role Access Health Spartanburg plays in aiding such individuals. The capstone additionally analyzes the cost-efficiency of the American health system in comparison to that of the United Kingdom's health system, known as the NHS.

Bonner Field Experience and Research Methods

Access Health Spartanburg (AHS): A non-profit organization located in Spartanburg, South Carolina links the uninsured citizens of Spartanburg County to a group of physicians that volunteer their time.
Volunteer Position: Operations Assistant. Primary role is prescreening clients prior to program entry.

Relevant Demographics and Statistics

- In Spartanburg County, nearly 13,000 people don't qualify for marketplace subsidies and tax credits, and are still uninsured. These individuals are affected by what is known as a "coverage gap."
- Those eligible for AHS services hold incomes 150% or below the federal poverty line.



U.S. and U.K. Health Systems Overview

U.K. Health System: Known as the NHS, operates on "The Beveridge Model."

- Provided by: medical providers whose salaries are paid by government
- Financed by: the government, through income taxes
- Administered by: the government

NHS Core Principles

- Free at point of delivery/access
- Based on clinical need
- Available to all

U.S. health system is a combination of many health models, where free access is demonstrated primarily through military and veteran coverage, work insurance, Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Compare Cost-efficiencies Between U.S. and U.K. Health Systems

WHO Health Rankings 2000

Very controversial...no ranking of countries ever since!

Ranking	Country	Per Capita Expenditure
1	France	4
2	Italy	11
3	San Marino	21
4	Andorra	23
5	Malta	37
6	Singapore	38
7	Spain	29
8	Oman	62
9	Austria	6
10	Japan	13
11	Norway	16
12	Portugal	27
13	Monaco	12
14	Greece	30
15	Finland	16
16	Luxembourg	6
17	Netherlands	9
18	United Kingdom	26
19	Ireland	25
20	Switzerland	2

USA: #31 in health, #1 in \$

Tandon et al., (2000). Measuring overall health system performance for 191 countries. Geneva: World Health Organization.

Figure 1

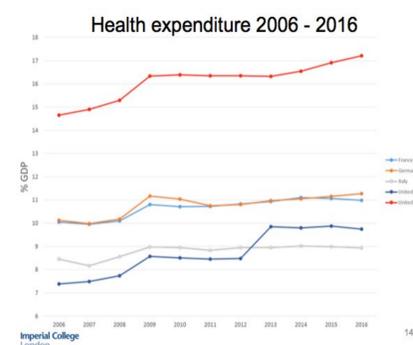


Figure 2

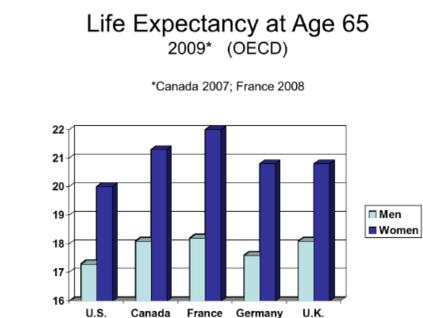


Figure 3

Figure 1 suggests that the U.S. is less cost-efficient than the U.K. in healthcare spending. Figure 2 highlights the drastic difference in healthcare spending in the U.S. compared to other nations as % GDP. Figure 3 reinforces that the U.S. is relatively inefficient in healthcare spending due to significantly lower life expectancies for both men and women in comparison to populations in other nations.

Summary & Conclusions

The American healthcare system is flawed and less cost-effective than other health systems. However, there is a place for non-profits such as AHS in the health model, and these organizations have a significant positive impact on the uninsured.

Acknowledgements & References

Dr. Roseanna Brady, D. Health Psy, MSc, MA.

Tandon et al. (2000). Measuring overall health system performance for 191 countries. Geneva: World Health Organization.