Comparative Health Systems: Part 1

Companion to Jonas & Kovner’s Health Care Delivery in the United States, Chapter Four, “Comparative Health Systems”

HSC 4630
Understanding U.S. Healthcare
Presentation Objectives

• Compare U.S. health outcomes to other counties
• Compare U.S. health spending to other counties
• Review the concept of health care as a right throughout the world
• Define classifications of national health systems
Life Expectancy at Birth

Source: University of Washington, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)
Life Expectancy Decline in U.S.

- Opioid epidemic: 137% increase in opioid-related deaths between 2000 and 2014.
- Suicide rate up 24% between 1999 & 2014

Reuters Opioid and Suicide
Life Expectancy at 60 Years

United States = 23 years (30th)

http://gamapserver.who.int/gho/interactive_charts/mbd/life_expectancy/atlas.html
Life Expectancy and Spending

Infant Mortality Rates

## Commonwealth Fund Ranking

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<th>FRA</th>
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“I believe that the [ACA] will kill jobs in America, ruin the best health care system in the world, and bankrupt our country. That means we have to do everything we can to try to repeal this bill and replace it with common sense reforms to bring down the cost of health care.”
– Speaker of the House, John Boehner in 2011

"We do start with the notion, however, that we have the best health care in the world."
- Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell in 2012
Colon Cancer, 5-year Relative Survival (%)
Breast Cancer, 5-year Relative Survival (%), 2005-09

Waiting Time to See Specialist

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Surveys data.
International Comparison of Spending on Health

Why U.S. Spends More

• Higher staff to patient ratios
• Adoption of newer technologies sooner
• Administrative inefficiencies
• Lack of waiting lists for services
• Higher prices of personnel, higher utilization of costly services
• Malpractice litigation/defensive medicine
• Provider incentives

Is Medical Care a Right?

• U.S. education as a model
• A continuum from clean water to medical care for all¹
• Right to health recognized in international law
• Racial and ethnic disparities may violate treaty ²

Why Study Different Health Care Systems?

• May provide important clues to assessing our own system

• Many industrialized countries either provide:
  – Health care directly through the government
  – Publicly funded health insurance with comprehensive coverage
Classification of Health Care Systems

- Traditional sickness insurance
  - A private insurance market approach with government subsidy
- National health insurance
  - National-level health insurance system
- National health services
  - National-level provision (delivery) of health care
- Mixed systems
  - Contain elements of both traditional sickness insurance and national health insurance
Conclusions

• U.S. ranks poorly on many measures of health outcomes
• U.S. outperforms others in many medical intervention-oriented health outcomes
• U.S. spends vastly more on healthcare
• There are many different types of national healthcare systems in world
Next Lecture

• United Kingdom
• Germany
• Canada
• Japan
• Conclude with comparable components of the U.S. system