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 at 60 Years

http://gamapserver.who.int/gho/interactive_charts/mbd/life_expectancy/atlas.html

Infant Mortality Rates

Source: Health, United States, 2007, Table 25

Commonwealth Fund Ranking

http://commonwealthfund.org/knowledge-center/health-system-performance-rankings
**Best Health Care System?**

“Fortunately, the positive news is that we’ve got the best health care system in the world.”
– President George W. Bush, January 28, 2004

**WHO HAS THE BEST HEALTH CARE SYSTEM? – BY PARTY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. has the best</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other countries have better</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/Refused</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International. 1,001 U.S. adults were surveyed. The margin of error is ±3%. Date: October 3, 2003.

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**Colon Cancer, 5-year Relative Survival (%)**

**Breast (l) and Prostate (r), 5-year Relative Survival (%)**

**Waiting Time to See Specialist**

**Patient Satisfaction**

**Life Expectancy and Spending**

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Source of economic data: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey data.


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8/10/2015
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 all
• Right to health recognized in international law
• Racial and ethnic disparities may violate treaty

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