

# Policy topic search and selection summary



Policy Topic Search and Selection SummaryUniversity of PhoenixValerye RogersHCS/455- Health Care Policy: The Past and the FutureGerald Weyand, InstructorSeptember 6, 2010Policy Topic Search and Selection SummaryIn the following, the author will research a health care policy and write a summary on the selected policy topic.

The author has chosen to write a summary on Health Care Reform policy. The author focuses on inequalities in a number of key public health conditions<sup>??</sup>™ such as causes of premature death (cardiovascular disease and cancer), and obesity. Other inequalities such as big public health burdens, risk taking behaviors in younger adults (alcohol, drugs, violence), mental illness health throughout life, and the threats to well being in older people will be another focus.

In conclusion, how the Health Care Reform policy affects lower priority public health services is the focus. On February 25, 2010, President Obama met with Congressional leaders for several hours in an attempt to iron out differences and move forward on health care reform. Although this health care summit failed to produce a legislative agreement, there was a consensus on several matters. Democrats and Republicans both expressed the view that America has the greatest health care system in the world (Blendon, 2006). Both sides agreed that gaps in health insurance coverage affect many Americans. Both sides cited research suggesting that roughly one- third of spending on health care in the United States goes for medical procedures which are ineffective (Masi, 2009). This summary is organized around these areas of agreement.

The commonly held views are likely to shape the direction of health care reform in this country, not only in 2010 but over the next decade. Gaps in health insurance coverage are a source of frustration and an impetus for changes in government policy. The belief that Americans waste resources on health care raises the issue of who should be empowered to make different choices. The World Health Organization's World Health Report 2000 ranked the American health care system as the 37th best in the world. Implicitly, this rather mediocre ranking has been rejected by the participants in President Obama's summit, who instead affirmed that the United States has the best health care system in the world. Three of the five main factors, accounting for 5/8 of the weight in WHO's ranking system, are distributional in character (Whitman, 2008). For such measures, a country in which every citizen receives equally bad health care paid for with tax dollars that has been scored better than a country where more costs are private or some citizens receive excellent care and others receive only good care. The author thinks that the WHO ranking system comes across as excessively focused on distributional issues.

Americans prefer to look at what politicians call ??? the bottom line:??? The American health care system ensures that poor people have access to care, through the Medicaid program and through subsidies to hospitals so that health care providers can and will treat people who lack health insurance. In summary, American culture places a high value on medical progress.

Americans view doctors as engaging in a heroic struggle against death, even when people are very old and very sick. We believe that treatment has been justified even if it offers only slight hope for relief. Some of the peculiarities

of our health care system reflect these preferences. Relative to our values, we probably do have the best health care system in the world. Nonetheless, the consensus at the President's health care summit was that America's health care system has serious problems.

If President Obama cannot get politicians to agree on the new Health Care Reform Policy, how can the citizens enjoy the benefits of it Or better yet, how can America's health system be changed or made better for the uninsured and the underinsured citizens

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