

Are YOU being Cheated by Our Healthcare Delivery System?

Why are we faced with increasing insurance premiums when we are already paying too much? How can our healthcare system improve?

To understand the current crisis in American healthcare it is helpful to compare the US system with systems used by other high-income countries. According to a recent review of health outcomes and cost per Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by the Commonwealth Fund, people in the US spend nearly twice as much as the average country, while experiencing the worst health outcomes overall of the 38 high-income nations evaluated (<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2023/jan/us-health-care-global-perspective-2022>.)

The US is a clear outlier, both in far higher spending and poorer health outcome. Americans spend 17.8% of our GDP - that's nearly twice as much as the average developed country. This upward trend in spending has worsened over the past 25 years.

And what do Americans get in return? The US has the lowest life expectancy at birth and the highest death rates for avoidable or treatable conditions, and among the highest suicide rates.

Why do these discrepancies exist? One key reason is that the US is the ONLY country of the 38 studied which does not have universal health coverage for all its citizens. Instead we have a "sick care system" designed by a market philosophy to maximize profits as opposed to providing healthcare. In fact our system discourages people from using services - Americans overall visit their doctor less frequently than residents of most other countries

How can the health system improve? Colorado is looking into a single payer system which should provide hope. The Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH) concluded in a 2021 report that such a system "could yield significant healthcare savings- in the range of \$.5 to \$3.6 billion per year," and has "the potential to increase access to care, improve health outcomes and possibly provide employment benefits." (https://content.leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/lcs/health_care_financing_report_-_co_school_of_public_health.pdf)

This year the School of Public Health has been requested by the Colorado legislature to provide a more in-depth study to inform legislation for just such a system. This study, which should be completed in 2026 will provide a detailed plan for a better system.

We CAN design a better system. We CAN equal or do better than the systems provided by other high-income countries of the world. Colorado Healthcare Coalition (www.cohccoalition.org) will share the findings as soon as they are available. Join us! And if you want to be part of the study that will turn the tide, donate to it on our webpage