

US Health Issues

Fact Sheet

COVERAGE & WORKFORCE	
# of people uninsured ¹	44.8 million
# of children uninsured ²	8.3 million
% of total population uninsured ¹	15.3%
% of children uninsured ²	11%
Regions with highest % of uninsured ²	The South (19%) The West (18%)
State with highest % of uninsured ²	Texas (25%)
# of unnecessary deaths annually due to lack of health insurance ³	18,000
% higher risk of death for uninsured vs insured woman with breast cancer ³	30-50%
# of industrialized nations, besides US, without national health care ⁴	0
% of physicians practicing in the US who are foreign graduates ⁵	27%
% of nurses working in the US who are foreign graduates ⁵	5%
Physicians per 100,000 population ⁶	264
Year when there will be an acute shortage of physicians ⁶	2020
# of people living in federally-designated underserved areas ⁶	30 million
% of population medically underserved ⁶	20%
% of physicians working in primary care ⁷	33%
% of US physicians that are Latino, Black or Native American ⁸	6.4%
% of US population that is Latino, Black or Native American ⁸	26%
MEDICAL EDUCATION	
First year medical students per 100,000 population, 1980 ⁶	7.3
First year medical students per 100,000 population, 2005 ⁶	5.6
% of medical graduates who are Latino, Black or Native American, 2004 ⁹	12%
% tuition increase at public medical school in US, 1981-2002 ⁹	528%
% tuition increase at private medical school in US, 1981-2002 ⁹	345%
Average US medical school graduate indebtedness, 2006 ¹⁰	\$130,000
% increase of US medical school graduate indebtedness 2005 to 2006 ¹⁰	8.5%
% of medical graduates who chose primary care specialties, 2005 ¹¹	37%
HEALTH SPENDING	
% of GDP spent on health, public and private (2003) ⁵	15%
Per capita expenditures on health (2003) ⁵	\$2,548

Total health expenditures, public & private (2005) ⁷	\$1.88 trillion
amount private health interests spent lobbying Congress (2005-2006) ¹²	\$400 million
BASIC INDICATORS¹³	
Infant mortality per 1,000	7
Under 5 mortality per 1,000	8
Life expectancy at birth – both sexes	77.5
Life expectancy at birth – men	74.8
Life expectancy at birth – women	80.2
HIV prevalence	0.6
% of children under 5 underweight for age	1%
PUBLIC OPINION	
% of voters who believe there are too few doctors today ¹⁴	60%
% of voters who believe there will be too few doctors in 10 years ¹⁴	66%
% of voters ranking health care as the most important US problem ¹⁵	29% (ranking second, after war in Iraq)
% of voters who rank coverage for the uninsured as top health reform priority ¹⁵	52%

1. Ku L. Census Revises Estimates of the Number of Uninsured People. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; Washington DC: April 5, 2007.
2. Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2005. US Census Bureau, 2006
3. Insuring America's Health: Principles and Recommendations, 2004. Institute of Medicine.
4. Uninsured in America: Problems and Possible Solutions, 2007. Davis, K. Commonwealth Fund.
5. Working Together for Health. World Health Report, 2006.
6. Help Wanted: More U.S. Doctors. Association of American Medical Colleges, 2006.
7. Toward a High Performance Health System for the United States, 2006. The Commonwealth Fund.
8. Diversity in the Physician Workforce: Facts and Figures, 2006. Association of American Medical Colleges.
9. Medical School Admission Requirements, various years. Association of American Medical Colleges.
10. Graduate Questionnaires, 2006. Association of American Medical Colleges.
11. Council on Graduate Medical Education, 2005.
12. www.Opensecrets.com
13. Human Development Index, 2006. United Nations Development Programme, 2006.
14. Help Wanted: More U.S. Doctors. Association of American Medical Colleges, 2006.
15. Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: Election 2008. Mar 2007.

PHYSICIAN-TO-POPULATION RATIOS, OECD COUNTRIES

Country	Physicians per 100,000 population
Greece	448
Italy	405
Belgium	388
Austria	383
Slovak Republic	368
Switzerland	351
Denmark	342
France	329
Spain	326
Germany	326
Portugal	318
Sweden	304
United States	264
Australia	244

New Zealand	223
Ireland	222
Canada	210
United Kingdom	201
Japan	193
Korea	130

Source: *Help Wanted: More U.S. Doctors*. Association of American Medical Colleges, 2006.

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