

HEALTHCARE ACCESS:

THE EFFECTS OF HEALTHCARE COSTS ON RESIDENTS OF FLINT, MICHIGAN

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Purpose

To demonstrate how a lack of affordable health care impacts residents of Flint, Michigan.

Introduction

- There is a serious lack of affordable healthcare in the United States
- With rising healthcare costs, access to basic care is not easily found (Community Health Needs Assessment Report, 2019)
- The number of preventable illness and disease increases without affordable healthcare
- Even with health insurance, people often struggle to afford out-of-pocket expenses (Garfield, et al., 2020)

The Problem in the U.S.

- Of the 27.5 million people in the U.S. that lack healthcare coverage, 45% of them cite cost as reason for being uninsured (Taylor, 2019).
- The average American household spends \$8,200 a year on healthcare premiums and out of pocket expenses (Taylor, 2019).
- 50% of U.S. adults state that they have skipped a necessary medical service due to cost.
- Of that 50%, 1 in 8 of those people stated that their medical condition got worse (Kirzinger et al., 2019).

Figure 1. Life Expectancy at Birth by Country

COUNTRY	LIFE EXPECTANCY
JAPAN	83.4
SPAIN	83.2
AUSTRALIA	82.2
ISRAEL	82.1
KOREA	81.8
UNITED KINGDOM	81.1
PORTUGAL	80.8
UNITED STATES	78.8
CHINA	75.4
RUSSIA	70.7

The Problem in Flint, MI

- The average household income for Flint residents is \$26,330 per year and approximately 20% of their household income is spent on healthcare costs (Taylor, 2019).
- 2015-2019, Flint has seen a 3% increase in uninsured individuals. This is due to increased costs and requirements to purchase individual coverage (Community Health Needs Assessment Report, 2019).
- Only 6.3% of Genesee County residents are uninsured yet the county has ranked 82nd out of 83 Michigan counties for healthcare outcomes the past three years (Community Health Needs Assessment Report, 2019).

Results

- Healthcare coverage is not the main conflict, but rather costs are still too crippling even after reduced pricing.
- 17% of Genesee County residents report inability to afford prescriptions and 17% were unable to afford the co-pay (Community Health Needs Assessment Report, 2019).
- Amount of insured residents in Flint is higher than state & national average, yet many individuals still report the inability to pay out-of-pocket costs (Berchick et al., 2020)
- Overall public health is negatively affected due to zero focus being placed on securing basic health and safety needs for Flint residents (El-Sayed, 2016).

Solutions

- There are program in Flint, attempting to combat the lack of affordable healthcare, including:
 - Children's Oral Health Task Force
 - Adult and Adolescent Partial Hospital Program
 - Genesee County Free Medical Clinic
 - Patient Care Fund
 - The Child Evaluation Clinic
 - & many more (Community Health Needs Assessment Report, 2019)

Figure 2. Poverty Rates & Percentage of Individuals Living in Poverty

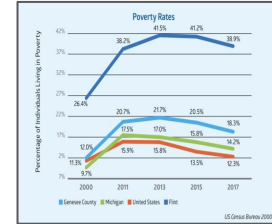
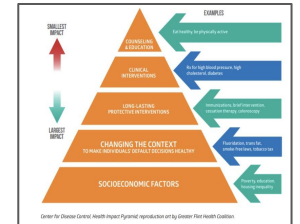


Figure 3. CDC Health Impact Pyramid: Factors that Affect Health



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