



Access to Medical Care in the United States

Facts

The background features several white line-art icons on a light gray background. At the top center is a stethoscope. To its right is a syringe. Below the stethoscope is a large pink heart with a white ECG line passing through it. To the right of the heart are several pills, some whole and some cut in half. At the bottom left is another syringe. The overall theme is medical and healthcare.

- As of 2020, roughly 31 million Americans are totally uninsured
- 23 million people had medical debt
- The largest population of people who could or would not see a medical professional were Hispanic (24%). This was followed by 21% of Black or African American, 19% of Indigenous people, 15% of Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders, 14% of white people, and 11% of Asian people

Not All Healthcare is Created Equal



⅓ of single person households (SPH) with private insurance could not cover a \$2000 medical bill

⅓ of SPH with private insurance could not cover a \$6000 medical bill

Lower income families (less than twice the poverty level) WITH private insurance spent an average of 1/10 of their yearly income on other medical bills not covered by insurance

The Risks (Why people need healthcare)

People without proper medical care are less likely to see any kind of medical professional regularly

This can exasperate issues

Roughly 21% of Americans in poor health and 15% of those with a disability have medical debt due to a lack of quality health insurance

What Is Currently Being Done

Healthy People 2030 initiative (ODPHP)

- 5th one of its kind, designed to get more Americans insured

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- HRSA Goals
 - Goal 1: Take actionable steps to achieve health equity and improve public health
 - Goal 2: Improve access to quality health services
 - Goal 3: Foster a health workforce and health infrastructure able to address current and emerging needs
 - Goal 4: Optimize HRSA operations and strengthen program engagement

Works Cited

<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/newsletter-article/state-and-federal-efforts-enhance-access-basic-health-care>

<https://www.kff.org/health-costs/press-release/1-in-10-adults-owe-medical-debt-with-millions-owing-more-than-10000/>

<https://health.gov/healthypeople>

<https://www.hrsa.gov/about/index.html>

<https://hbr.org/2021/12/5-critical-priorities-for-the-u-s-health-care-system>

What We Can Do!

- Offer more telehealth and in home hospital service
- Address the racial disparities in healthcare
- Focus on public health more than healthcare
- And integrate healthcare systems by transferring patients between facilities, or caregivers — and between care providers and insurers.

