

ADDRESSING HEALTH EQUITY FOR PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS THROUGH POLICY CHANGE

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INTRODUCTION

- Populations with chronic conditions experience a lack of access to healthcare

Access

Chronic
Conditions

- Research Question: Can access to healthcare improve the quality of life, life expectancy, morbidity, and mortality of individuals with chronic conditions in the U.S. and from a global perspective in Cuba?

METHODS

- **Purpose of the project is to identify a gap/solution for addressing access issues for people with chronic conditions in the U.S.**
- **Literature review** of previously collected study data to identify disparities in policies, healthcare coverage, and determinants of health.
- **Interviewed primary care provider** to gain an understanding of the impact of PCP shortage on the lack of accessibility to healthcare.

RESULTS

Healthcare coverage:
different types in U.S.,
universal coverage in Cuba.

% (total population 324,550,000) 2019	U.S.	Cuba
Uninsured	8%	.
Any Healthcare Plan	92%	100% coverage on their universal healthcare system
Private Plan	68%	
Employment based	56.4%	
Direct Purchase	10.2%	
Tricare	2.6%	
Any Public Insurance Plan	34.1%	
Medicare	18.1%	
Medicaid	17.2%	
Veterans Affairs (VA) and CHAMPVA	1.0%	

HEALTHCARE EXPENDITURE

Expenditure	U.S.	Cuba
Current Health Expenditure (CHE) per Capita in US\$ (2019)	10,624	987
Current Health Expenditure (CHE) as % Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (2018)	17%	11%

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE U.S. VS CUBA

Variables (2019)	U.S.	Cuba
Population size	327,096,265	11,201,549
Over age 65, %	16%	16%
Morbidity: Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)	4.6% (15,046,428)	10,794
Mortality: Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)	659,041	26,736
Prevalence (per 100,00 population)	4,600	97
Life expectancy at birth (age)	78.5	77.76
Life expectancy at 60 (years)	23.13	21.59

PCP INTERVIEW

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- Impact of PCP shortage: over utilization of urgent care and the emergency room
- Chronic conditions are not diagnosed early
- Preventive care interventions cannot be practiced
- Educate patients: from a young age, importance of PCP visits, following diagnosis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Reduce the shortage of PCPs

- Policy change for newly graduated physicians
- Mandatory year of primary care residency prior to a specialty of their choice
- Result: increased # of PCPs and accessibility

The U.S. adapts Cuba's healthcare policy

- universal healthcare system
- Accessibility for all people, not only those who can afford out of pocket pay
- Provide equal accessibility of healthcare for all people