



## US HEALTHCARE IS UNSURPASSED IN QUALITY: WE DON'T HAVE A CRISIS IN CARE

The US is the leader in cutting edge, outstanding medical care. Individuals in the US have used their creative enterprise and trillions of dollars, and became the world's leader in medical technology.

## WHAT ABOUT INFANT MORTALITY, LIFE EXPECTANCY, %GDP SPENT? WE ARE TOLD THESE POINT TO INFERIORITY OF OUR SYSTEM

We hear that our infant mortality and life expectancy is not as good as other countries. Before one can judge the US health care system based on infant mortality, the issue must be placed in proper perspective because statistics taken out of context lead to wrong conclusions. 99.7% of babies carried to term are still living a year later in this country. Preterm babies, multiple babies carried at once, later age of mothers, induced labor, unwed mothers, drug addicted mothers—these raise the US infant mortality rate, and arise from cultural issues not problems with health care delivery. Another cause of higher infant mortality in the US is that we are determined to save preterm babies. This aggressiveness increases our mortality rate, while in other countries those babies would likely be aborted because keeping them alive is so expensive.

It is not true US life expectancy being shorter than some other countries points to the inadequacy of our US health care system. Japan has the longest life expectancy, 81.8 years compared to the US at 77.2. Our death rate, however, is lower. Which of these statistics are more significant? More people die in Japan per 1000, but those who live live longer. There are significant genetic and cultural differences between Japanese and Americans. We are a melting pot of races (some races with higher morbidity and mortality), they are 99% Japanese. The Japanese have a strong work ethic, promote self responsibility, eat less red meat, tend to be slender, and have a strong family emphasis. Lifestyle choices are not a reflection of our health care system but are a moral and cultural issue. Besides that, Japan doesn't have government-run health care and has a very low percent on Welfare.

It is a myth 46 million Americans to don't have access to health care because they are uninsured. People over 65 have Medicare. 85% under 65 have health insurance. Of the remaining 15%, 43% can afford to have insurance but choose not to. 25% are illegal aliens. 25% qualify for other government insurance programs. That means less than 1% are actually the uninsured poor that want health insurance.

The other item that health reform activist point to is the higher percent of GDP that the US spends on health care. Rather than a fault in our system, the central reason we spent so much money is because we have had, until recently, the world's most successful economy. Most foreign nations, able to show health care spending far below ours, are unable to spend any more than they do because of their smaller GDP, because their citizens will not tolerate increased taxes and do not have the discretionary income necessary.

## DESPITE PROBLEMS, WHY IS IT NOT WISE TO TURN TO GOVERNMENT FOR SOLUTIONS?

There is 100% failure rate of major federal government programs, and we are going to trust government with health care which is 17% of our GDP?

FAILED GOVERNMENT-RUN PROGRAMS (start dates and now bankrupt or on the verge):

- US Postal Service – 1775      Social Security – 1935      Fanny Mae – 1938
- War on Poverty – 1964      Medicare, Medicaid – 1965      Amtrak – 1970, Freddy Mac – 1970