

Equity in health systems financing: An international comparison and alternatives for the U.S.

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TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: International Comparison of Health Systems Financing /
Target Audiences: Public health professionals, policy makers and advocates

ABSTRACT:

Background: Health systems financing has been one of the core issues in health system reform around the world. Specifically, most public health professionals and policy makers/advocates are interested in equity of health systems financing, which often dictates how a reform will be structured.

Purpose: Provides a systematic analysis of various structures of health systems financing and promotes better understanding, while also expands the horizon of identifying possible alternatives for the United States.

Method: Applying an established health system financing analytical framework and an explicit criteria of equity to systematically analyze healthcare financial burden among various forms of national health systems, including the U.S. system.

Results: Based on the analysis, this paper will present the relative strengths and weaknesses of equity in financial burden among various systems of health financing.

Implications: Results of this analysis will help public health professionals and policy makers/advocates to critically assess various systems of health finance. At the same time, one can identify alternatives of health systems financing reform for the U.S. that are consistent with one's equity principle.

OBJECTIVE(S):

- Differentiate various models of national health systems financing
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of various models of national health systems financing
- Assess alternatives of health systems financing for the U.S.

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