

11.18.2015 | METHODS

Health of the Healthcare System: An Overview

Comparable country health spending data were obtained from the health expenditure and financing file in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Health Statistics database. Data were accessed on June 25, 2014. Additional OECD health data were obtained from the health quality indicators file on March 2, 2015 and the health care utilization file on October 29, 2014.

Comparable countries for comparison were identified based on economic similarity because national health spending strongly correlates with GDP. Comparable countries met the following criteria:

- Above median total GDP among all OECD countries
- Above median GDP per capita among all OECD countries for at least 1 of the past 10 years

The comparable country averages were calculated using the simple (unweighted) average of comparable OECD countries (not including the U.S.), for which data are available.

Data for disability adjusted life years were obtained from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Global Burden of Disease Study.

Data for deaths amenable to health care are based on analysis of data by Nolte E and McKee CM and published in Health Affairs in January 2008.

Additional data were obtained from the Commonwealth Fund International Health Policy Survey in Eleven Countries.

Data describing disease specific health expenditures were obtained from the Bureau of Economic Analysis Health Care Satellite Account (Blended Account). These data exclude expenditures on nursing home and dental care.

Comparative analysis of medical procedure and prescription drug pricing were obtained from the International Federation of Health Plans. U.S. average prices are calculated using commercial claims data from Truven MarketScan Research databases. Methods and sources for comparable countries can be found here: <http://www.ifhp.com/1404121>.

Data on barriers to accessing care are from a Kaiser Family Foundation analysis of the National Health Interview Survey.