

The Sorry State of American Health

Time Magazine - Dec 1, 2008

The following questions go along with Time Magazine's Dec 1 issue on the "Sorry State of American Health". The PDF copy of the article is located on the Buddha blog along with Five graphs from the magazine story. Questions will deal with graphs and article.

1 - The Bad News

In the first few paragraphs of the article, much is made of the bad health of Americans. Identify some of these problems.

2 - The Good News

And then it goes on to mention some positives in the US Health Care system. Identify some of those as well.

3 - GRAPH #1 - HC Spending

Take a look at this graph. Make a few observations...particularly look at US cost overall and as percentage of GDP. Now take a look at few other countries. What things strike you about this Graph. Remember the countries when we go to graph #2.

4 - GRAPH #2 - Life Expectancy

Take a look at this graph. Now pull up Graph #1 and compare it with Graph #2, what are you seeing here? Compare countries, costs, life expectancy, and infant mortality. What do you see?

5 - Fighting the Wrong War

Page 2 Fighting the Wrong War, talks about the big mistake we are making. Explain. Why is this not only unhealthy but also not cost effective? Explain.

6 - Infant Mortality Rate

Again Graph #2 Infant Mortality Rate. Where does the USA rate? Alongside what third world nations? How does prenatal care, proper nutrition, health care coverage, pregnancy care, and poverty relate here?

7 - Life Expectancy Rate

Has the US improved its Life Expectancy rate through time? Has it kept up with other first world countries? What does the article say limits successes in this field?

8 - GRAPH #5 - Preventable Death

Lack of access to a doctor has a lot to do with annual preventable deaths. How does US relate to the other developed nations? Look at the graph and map - what do you see? How would that relate to the number 110?

9 - Health Care prevention and Education

According to the author what role does prevention and education play in a good Health Care system? What areas could more progress be made?

10 - GRAPH #3 & # 4 - Good News

There's at least a little good news here. What positives do these two graphs provide? Still when it comes to cardiovascular disease how does the USA compare?

11- International Health

After looking at all of these graphs, and the various specifics of each nation, what countries do you see as the healthiest? Cite your proof from the graphs. Which are least healthy? Why?

12 - OBAMA'S BIGGEST CHALLENGES

Click on the Obama link - What do you think are the biggest challenges that he faces in fixing the system?

13 - IF YOU WERE THE PREZ

What three goals would you set as your top priorities in fixing this broken system? Give a little input on how you'd go about doing it.

PRIORITY #1_____

PRIORITY #2_____

PRIORITY #3_____
