

DISPARITIES IN HEALTH OUTCOMES AND INSURANCE READINGS

There are 6 readings- Be able to discuss at least 4. For each, I will ask for a summary of the main points, followed by your discussion.

1. Uninsured disparities in health outcomes

http://users.wfu.edu/marshcl/docs/BroaderContext/Uninsured_nyt.pdf

2. Part of a television report on health care in the U.S.- look at Chpt 2 “Story of a Broken System” from the minute 8:16 to minute 14:16

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sickaroundamerica/view/>

3. Comprehensive look at minorities and the uninsured (long, just skim at least for main points or whatever you find interesting)

<http://kff.org/uninsured/report/the-uninsured-a-primer-key-facts-about-health-insurance-on-the-eve-of-coverage-expansions/>

4. Education, income, and health

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2010/June/29/FT-More-Income-Better-Health.aspx>

5. Thinking about health outside of hospital care

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/25/AR2010052505245.html>

6. Interaction of environment and health outcomes

http://users.wfu.edu/marshcl/docs/BroaderContext/Medicaid_wsj.pdf

Think about these questions while reading:

What information was the article trying to convey? What was the source?

What groups of people or institutions were involved? What was the market (the good being sold)? Who supplies? Who consumes?

Were any causes given for the situation described? Market failures (externalities, imperfect information, etc)?

Were any solutions suggested for the situation?

Do you think they were good solutions?

What are related issues to think about in this market that were not touched on?

Discussion questions:

What did you discover that was surprising to you?

What are the most pressing issues presented here?

What other factors might be involved in health outcomes that are not considered here?

What policy solutions are being suggested in this area? What are the pros of those policies, what might be some cons of those policies?

How should we think about equity and allocative efficiency in this context? Rephrased, **which of the issues raised above do you find the most urgent and why?**

And of course, any questions you have for me about the articles will be welcome.