

Potential Lessons from U.S. Efforts to Reform Health Care

Dr. Paul D. Cleary, Dean, Yale School of Public Health

Abstract

Countries throughout the world are trying to improve the quality, efficiency, and equity of the health care they provide. Even after recent health care reform initiatives, health care in the United States is among the costliest in the world and has serious problems of access and quality. Furthermore, it still emphasizes treatment over prevention. This presentation will review the problems of access, quality, and cost of health care in the United States, some of the positive consequences of recent reform efforts, and major remaining challenges. The presentation will conclude with comments about the potential of health education for focusing and guiding such reform efforts.

Biography

Paul D. Cleary, Ph.D. is the Dean of the Yale School of Public Health and the Anna M.R. Lauder Professor of Public Health. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, a member of the Connecticut Academy for Science and Engineering, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1996, he was selected as a distinguished fellow of the Association for Health Services Research, and in 2002, he received the Distinguished Investigator Award from the Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy. In 2010, Dr. Cleary was awarded the Picker Award for Excellence in the Advancement of Patient-Centered Care. He is the Principal Investigator of one of the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) projects funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to develop information by gathering surveys from consumers regarding their health plans and services. He is also the Principal Investigator and Director of the Yale Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA).

Upstream, Downstream, and In Between: Factors that Impact the Health of Children, their Families, and their Communities

Dr. Beth Jones, Research Scientist & Lecturer, Yale School of Public Health

Abstract

Globally, non-communicable or chronic diseases contribute disproportionately to ill health, resource utilization, reduced quality of life, and mortality. While these outcomes are generally observed in adulthood, the risk factors that contribute to these outcomes, as well as their underlying social determinants are generally at work much earlier. Taking a life-course perspective, and referencing the ecobiodevelopmental framework for promoting healthy development in children, this presentation will explore the role of social determinants in disease burden and poor outcomes across the spectrum of non-communicable (chronic) diseases that negatively impact individual and public health. As the key risk factors that contribute to poor health in adulthood relate in part to lifestyle factors and behaviors, some with early origins, we will discuss individual, institutional, and policy level interventions that may inform health promotion and health education strategies in the school environment.

Biography

Beth A. Jones, PhD, MPH is a Research Scientist and Lecturer at the Yale School of Public Health, Assistant Director for Diversity and Health Equity for Yale Cancer Center, Program Director of Smilow Center for Cancer Screening & Prevention, and Director of Yale CURE: Engaging Youth in Cancer Research. Trained as a cancer epidemiologist, Dr. Jones' research has addressed racial/ethnic disparities in cancer outcomes and cancer screening. She teaches a graduate level (MPH) course on Health Disparities by Race and Socioeconomic Status. She is now in her 9th year as a publicly elected member (and Vice Chair) of the Board of Education in her local public school district.

Health Education Curriculum and Health Reform: What is the Connection?

Dr. Soula Ioannou, Ministry of Education and Culture

Abstract

The implementation of the National Health System is a controversial issue in Cyprus, particularly with respect to its implementation. What may be the place of the National Health System in the health education curriculum? Students, parents/guardians, and teachers are invited, through the health education curriculum, to become aware of the complexity of health problems and to act as health promotion agents. This presentation discusses the health education curriculum relating to the Cyprus National Health System. How can the learning objectives, the content, and the methodology of the health education curriculum help to create active citizens in the development and implementation of the National Health System?

Biography

Dr. Soula Ioannou is an officer at the Coordinating Committee for Health Education and Citizenship at the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus, and a member of the scientific personnel at the University of Cyprus. She works for the development of health-related school policies, as well as relevant teacher training, and is involved in several local and European school projects. Her research interests and publications are related to issues concerning health promotion at school level and health-related behaviours. She has been appointed by the Minister of Education to develop the Health Education Curriculum for the Educational Reform Program of Cyprus. She is a member of the National Committee of Smoking, Aids and the Cyprus Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

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