Social Determinants of Health: A Global Comparison

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Abstract

The American healthcare system has become a subject of an intensive debate by many global health care professionals who argue to some extents that the US spends more than any other similar countries on health care, yet the health outcomes have been hovering at the bottom for industrialized nations (Bradley-Springer, 2012). Researchers in the health care have been arguing that investment in the health care system alone cannot improve health outcomes (Butler et al. 2017). Financial pressure forces decision makers to look for a short term solution leading toward higher usage of drugs in U.S. than in other countries (Kwon et al. 2017).

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the roles that economic agents and social determinants such as insurance coverage, income inequality measured by Gini Index. Previous studies on social determinants in health speculate that social determinants play more significant roles than medical spending in determining the health outcomes. But their studies limit their scope of study to the US only (Bradley-Springer, 2012) or advanced industrialized countries (Kwon et al. 2017). This study proposes to investigate statistically the relationship between social determinants and health outcomes for 2 economically and politically different groups of country.

Keywords
Social Determinants of Health, Medical Investment


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Sung-Ho Kim is an adjunct professor of Health Administration at Yonsei University and researched at St. Louis University as a visiting professor. He earned his Ph. D at Yonsei University. He is member of directorial board, at Korean Society of Hospital Management, Korean Academy of Health Policy and Management. His recent

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