

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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Biographies

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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Ik-Whan G. Kwon is a Professor Emeritus of Operation Management at Saint Louis University and is currently serving as Director Emeritus of Center for Supply Chain Management Studies at Saint Louis University. He is member of editorial board, at International Journal of Business Innovation and Research, International Journal of Information Systems and Supply Chain Management, and International Journal of Procurement Management. His current research interests include Supply Chain Design, Strategy and Implementation, and Lean Six Sigma in Supply Chain and Logistics. He is the author of Factors Affecting the Level of Trust and Commitment in Supply Chain Management in Journal of Supply Chain Management, Trust, Commitment and Relationships in Supply Chain Management – Path Analysis in Supply Chain Management, International Journal, A Pilot Study on Normalized Weighted Approach to Citation Study: A Case of Logistics and Transportation Journal in the International Journal of Physical Distribution and Logistics Management , Comparative Efficiencies of Specialty Coffee Retailers from the Perspectives of Socially Responsible Global Sourcing in The International Journal of Logistics Management, and Examining the Roles of Suppliers in Large Scale System Integration Using a Coordination Theory: An Exploratory Study, in The International Journal of Procurement Management.