

HSCI 305 Questions for December 7 Class

Group #6

Armstrong and Armstrong Chapters 6 and 7

Armstrong and Armstrong identify three issues that are frequently identified in the media as reasons for questioning whether the public health care system will be sustainable in the future; an aging population, wait times and rising costs that undermine sustainability. Discuss why A & A feel that each of these issues is manageable within our public system.

- Aging population does not necessarily mean increased cost burden on healthcare system
 - Young and ill people can be just as costly as the elderly
 - Other countries (eg. Japan) have been able to manage
- Wait times are difficult to measure, and do not all have the same impact (waiting for a check up vs. waiting in the ER)
- Wait times have been steady in Canada, and not particularly long for emergency care

Why do Armstrong and Armstrong see privatization as a major threat to the future of our medicare system?

- Access to health care services is based on ability to pay and not on level of need
- Those who cannot afford or have the resources to access care will end up costing more in the future to themselves and the system
- Choices for the wealthy, but no choices for the poor
- Cherry picking patients to reduce costs
- Private ownership is associated with lower quality of care
- Hospitals with private ownership also run at higher costs at the expense of the government
- Wealthier corporations have more power on decision making
- Privatization is gendered, classed, and racialized
- Undermining collective responsibility and collective risk by shifting from hospital and institutional care to individuals and their families

Dennis Raphael Chapter

Raphael outlines some of the major disparities between the health, economic, educational and social circumstances of Aboriginal people and other Canadians. Describe some of the most significant of these disparities and discuss how they impact on the lives of Aboriginal peoples today.

- Impact of Residential Schools. Due to the abuse endured, this affected the mental health of many Indigenous peoples. Additionally, there is an increased risk of developing addiction to alcohol. As a result of the lack of nutrition in these schools, they have an increased risk of disease susceptibility.
- Lack of housing, including lack of clean drinking water or electricity on reserves
- Lack of access to medical services
- Lack of income security, housing services, language services, education

- This has caused a lot of PTSD for the individuals which has led to poor mental health.
- The poor education has caused a low socioeconomic status which triggers small housing, insufficient dietary intake which impacts the individual's health. Moreover, the access to medical services is impacted with low socioeconomic status due to transportation issues (hospital too far + unaffordable fare for transportation = avoid primary prevention)
- Racial profiling is another issue many Aboriginals still face in health care settings which include health care professionals using stereotypes during the diagnosis of treatment etc.; this can cause an avoidance feeling towards medical care by the individuals which can negatively impact their health in the long term.

How have government policies created and reinforced the disparities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians?

- Leading to adverse health outcomes eventually leading to relocations of Inuit community.
- Unemployment rate among the Aboriginal group 14%, twice as that of non-aboriginal.
- Crowded housing.
- Food insecurity, Aboriginal living on reserves face twice the lack of supply in food as compared to non-aboriginal.
- Less life expectancy rate and high infant mortality amongst the aboriginal group.

Identify some of the key provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and discuss its implications for Canada

- Address injustices, prejudice, and discrimination against Indigenous Peoples
- Promote understanding through human rights education
- Implications for Canada include reconciliation, better understanding and respect for Indigenous Peoples
- Indigenous Peoples being treated with equity
- Protecting Indigenous governance
- Took more than 2 decades of negotiation, so this is a big step to reconciliation for Indigenous Peoples
- Justice for Indigenous Peoples of Canada historically, culturally, and socially
- Provides guidance for universities, government, public legislations and institutions

Daniel Martin Video: Challenges to Public Health Care in Canada (Note: this video was made in 2015 while Stephen Harper was the Prime Minister.)

Why does Dr. Martin believe that the principle of equity lies at the core of our public health care system?

- Because our public health care system is about Canadian citizens receiving healthcare when needed, not if they can afford it. Canada has chosen an egalitarian approach when everyone receives the same standard and access to healthcare regardless of salary.

Identify some of the arguments made by opponents of public medicare and explain why Dr. Martin believes these arguments are fundamentally wrong.

- The public system is broken (long wait times, dying in the streets,) : Coordination, political will and a little bit of money led to reduced wait times
- Public hospitals are inefficient, and private care is more efficient
- Medicare is unsustainable, eating provincial budgets
- We don't have federal leadership in our healthcare system
- This is the same argument that has been talked about since medicare was created, the proportion of our GDP on public spending is very stable but we spend more than other nations because we spend more privately (prescriptions) than the countries in the OECD. These are the major drivers for healthcare spending.

Why does she feel that leadership by the federal government is essential for the preservation of medicare?

- There will not be positive change without there being monetary attachment to the federal program. Without leadership from the federal government we are losing on standardized national care and since there are inconsistencies in between provinces, more people are leaning towards private healthcare. The government must have necessary "check ups" in order to see if the standards for medical care are being followed; many companies/organizations/infrastructure in the health sector find "loopholes" for the health care in order to increase economic stability. Thus, no one is fighting for the Canadian health act so policies are slipping.