

## HiT Report United States of America

The introduction of the text talks about the state of the healthcare system in the USA back in 2013. Many of the points brought up still stand to this day, not in a positive light. It has been 11 years and yet the USA still remains one of the worst developed countries in terms of healthcare. It is a shared reluctance across America when it comes to getting medical assistance due to high costs associated with it, and this has persisted since the text was written. One interesting quote from the text that was "The United States benefits from net inward migration of health-care professionals from other countries. However, it suffers from internal maldistribution of health-care workforce...". The USA has excellent healthcare professionals but due to lack of adequate infrastructure when it comes to healthcare, these benefits cannot be fully utilized. Another aspect touched upon in the text was how 54% of Americans are covered by the private sector, and this is generally connected to their employment status. Having one's health directly associated with their employment status causes more restrictions for what the American people can do, people start to become trapped at their places of work as leaving it would leave them prone to becoming bankrupt from medical debt. During the conclusion of the introduction, it was stated that the USA health-care system can be considered "unquestionably among the best in the world" in some ways, but I feel that this statement cannot be made in any respect unless the people of this country can get truly benefit from the system.

## Sociology of Health Care Reform: Building on Research and Analysis to Improve Health Care

David Mechanic and Donna D. McAlpine highlight some of the key aspects of the US healthcare system that are flawed and tackle five themes, or challenges, that need to be addressed in order to improve the system. Many of the healthcare reforms that have been present in the US have been trying to make healthcare accessible, cost-efficient, and good quality. The first two themes both tackle the cost efficiency issue of fixing the healthcare system in the USA, disparity of cost of treatment and medical professionals getting paid. My understanding is that the cost of implementing universal health care is the biggest challenge making its implementation difficult. America's budgeting is a large part of this issue, as so much of the federal spending goes into defense rather than quality of living. The second theme of paying professionals for their work was structured into two vein of thoughts, payment per service or set salary payment. Both approaches come with downsides but for a universal system, the set salary payment may be the most cost-efficient way. The other themes are also important, but they would be ironed out through an implementation of a better system.