1. How well is our health care system performing when compared to our past? To other countries?
   1. Describe one policy change that you believe might improve the performance of our health care system.

Delving into this week’s reading/lecture was eye-opening, as someone who has health insurance as well as someone who is constantly looking at patients insurance coverage, it was hard to not be personally vested in this week’s topic.

With this in mind I chose to address the question of how health care in the US compares to other countries, as well as how far the US has come regarding their accessibility to health care. When one thinks of the US, it is easy to assume they lead the way in many things, technology, wealth, education – and one could easily loop healthcare into that. Shockingly though when looking at statistics, although the US leads “cost” of healthcare they most definitely are not leading the way in many health indicators amongst comparable countries. As stated in Assessing he performance of the US health System “Consistent with our shorter life expectancy, [mortality rates](https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/chart-collection/how-do-mortality-rates-in-the-u-s-compare-to-other-countries/) for most leading causes of death are higher in the U.S. than in comparable OECD countries.” (Levitt, Claxton, Cox, Gonzales, and Kamal 2014). Life expectancy in “…the U.S. is just under 79 years, compared to an average of just under 82 years in comparable countries” (Levitt, et al 2014). Why these statistics are even more concerning as brought up in the same article as well as the text in the US is spending on average much more than these countries.

“In 2011, the per capita health care spending in the United States was approximately $8,500” in comparison to similar Countries where “…spending averaged approximately $3,300 per capita…” (

In comparing the US to how it was doing in the past one positive as noted by Obama in healthcare reform is “The number of uninsured individuals in the United States has declined from 49 million in 2010 to 29 million in 2015. (Obama, 2016).

**Week 2 Discussion Assignment Instructions:**Review the Module 1 PowerPoint slides and post your responses to **one of the three** reflective questions (the primary question **and** the follow-up question) listed in the PowerPoint slides for this module.  Respond to at least one classmate’s posting, as per the DISCUSSION guidelines listed in the syllabus.  **Please also remember to respond to questions posed by peers.** **(5 pts.)**

Health Outcomes from: <https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/brief/assessing-the-cost-and-performance-of-the-u-s-health-system/#item-start>

Levitt, L., Claxton, G., Cox, C., Gonzales, S., Kamal, R. (2014). Assessing the performance of

the US health system.

<http://www.healthsystemtracker.org/insight/assessing-the-cost-and-performance-of-the-u-s-health-system/>

The health care marketplace in the U.S. is quite different from comparable OECD countries. In 2012, public sector health spending accounted for about 8% of U.S. GDP and private sector spending accounted for another 9%. In comparable OECD countries, public sector spending accounted for 8% of GDP on average, while private sector spending was less than 3% on average.

With just 85% of the population covered by health insurance in 2012, the U.S. has a lower rate of coverage than any other OECD country. (The OECD average is 98% and comparable countries cover 100% of their populations).

Obama, B. (2016).  United States health care reform progress to date and next steps. *Journal of the American Medical Association, 316*(5), 525-532. doi:10.1001/jama.2016.9797 (e- reserve).

The number of uninsured individuals in the United States has declined from 49 million in 2010 to 29 million in 2015.