I. Health in America

A. America’s Physical

1. Infant mortality

a. class /race

b. comparative

2. Life Expectancy

a. class/race

b. gender w

c. comparative

3. Mortality

a. approx

b. disease

c. class/race

d. gender

4. Communicable diseases (flu, pneumonia, tuberculosis)

a. class/race

b. gender

5. Mental illness: Adults

Children

6. Overweight and Obesity

a. BMI

b. Adults

c. Trend

d. comparison

7. Eating disorders

B. Health: social factors

1. Exercise

a. adults

b. Children

2. Diet

a. fast foods: 1 in 4 each day

i. size

ii. content: fat, sugar, salt

b. 90% of children visit McDonalds once a month

c. Avg American

3. Food security

a. each day

b. 1/4 of population

c. long term: heart disease, kidney damage, bowel

disease, neurological disorders

d. one study: meat

i. e coli

ii. staph 30%

iii. listeria 11.7% 1 out of 5 lethal

iv.salmonella 7.5%

v. fecal matter 78.6%

vi.Jack in the Box 500,000 sickened by e coli

4. Cigarette and Alcohol

a. 500,000 deaths

b. disease

5. Work

a. more hours 200+ since mid 70s

b. more hours commuting

c. work is more sedentary

d. stress: job insecurity

e. occupational illnesses

6. Advertising

a. targeting children

i. $, prime time

ii. selling: cereals, snacks, candies, sweetened drinks

iii. “branding” children

b. McDonalds

7. Environmental factors

a. industrial pollution

b. chemical pollution

c. air pollution

8. Technology

a. television

b. internet

9. Class and race

a. class: work and disease

b. race: pollution

II. Health Care in America

A. Health care system

1. public

a. Medicare (except Supplemental)

b. Medicaid

c. Veterans Administration

d. States

2. private

a. private health insurance

b. managed care

3. corp control of private system

a. drug companies (Pfizer)

b. HMOs (Kaiser)

c. for-profit hospitals (Columbia/HCA)

d. insurance companies

i. health insurance cartel

ii. personal and employee benefit insurance

e. nursing homes

f. profit

i. drug companies

ii. insurance companies

iii. HMOs

4. Cost to Americans

5. Comparison/trend

a. Most expensive

b. WHO

c. uninsured

d. underinsured

e. dental insurance

f. only industrial country w/o universal health coverage

g. only industrial country that doesn’t regulate drug

prices

6. Health Care reform (2014)

a. mandatory

b. uninsured

c. government subsidies $500 billion

c. preexisting conditions

d. no limits on premiums

e. underinsured

C. Three tiered system

1. upper class: best care in the world

a. private doctors

b. private hospitals

c. "boutique"

d.100% coverage

2. middle

a. personal (private insurance), HMO, employment group coverage

i. monthly premium

ii. deductible

iii. co-pays

iv. exclusions

b. strategies of undercare

i. gatekeeping: primary care physicians

appointment

brief examinations

limit referrals\*

ii. exclusions

exclude sick (preexisting conditions)

exclude specialists

exclude procedures (experimental, elective-cosmetic)

iii. eliminate unprofitable units (and hospitals)

iv. low staffing

c. consequences: strategies of undercare

i. bankruptcy

ii. inadequate care

iii. approx 90,000 per year die from hospital-grown infections

(75% preventable)

iv. errors: millions prescription drug mistakes

3. bottom tier

a. Emergency room care/ patient dumping

b. “black market” health care.

D. Health Care Industry and the Political System

1. campaign finance

1. lobbying (revolving door 166)

.3. trade groups

a. PHARMA (Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of

America),

b. AMA (American Medical Association)

c. American Health Insurance Plans

4. front groups

a. Citizens for Better Medicare: $65 million

b. United Senior Coalition

c. Center for Consumer Freedom

5. advertising and marketing: Pharmaceutical industry

a. advertising

b. marketing

E. Corporate Interests vs. vital needs

1. Pharmaceutical Industry’s “wish list”

a. research and development

i. subsidies (Taxol)

ii. “cosmeceuticals”

b. tort reform

c. human testing in third world countries

d. limit generics

i. patent extensions

ii. bribery

e. control: FDA, medical journals (JAMA), researchers

and studies

f. DTC (Direct-to-Consumer drug advertisements)

i. illegal until 1997

ii. “clarification”

iii. legal now in US and New Zealand

iv. restrictions

III. Health care: Another Approach

A. Public health

1. method (prevention)

a. discover social/environmental causes

b. eliminate

2. public health: success

a. sewage treatment b. water treatment

c. standards for food d. working conditions

B. Public health in America

1. funding

2. Public health

a. no profit

b. cost to corporations

i. auto, fossil fuel, chemical

ii. fast food and meat processing industry

iii. media: advertising industry

iv. health care industry