

## FACTS ABOUT OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

- **Americans spend \$5,267 per capita on health care every year, almost two and half times the industrialized world's median of \$2,193 and more than any other nation.** (The Moral-Hazard Myth, Malcolm Gladwell 8/22/05 and National Coalition on Health Care)
- **The portion of the gross domestic product consumed by the health sector in the United States is 15.6%, 10.9% in Switzerland, 10.7% in Germany, 9.7% in Canada and 9.5% in France.** (Kenneth Thorpe, PhD Emory University and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)
- **Americans have a lower live expectancy than residents in 28 other developed nations, we rank 28<sup>th</sup> in infant mortality and dead last in deaths from heart disease.** (United Health Foundation)
- **Over the past five years the average annual increase in inflation has been 2.5 percent while health insurance premiums have escalated an average of 11.4 percent annually.** (Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) June 2005)
- **45 million Americans are currently uninsured.** (Kaiser Foundation and Commonwealth Fund)
- **11% of Michigianians, or more than 1.1 million, are currently uninsured.** (Kaiser Foundation)
- **One third of Americans aged 19-to-24 years old do not have health insurance.** ("Gender and Uninsurance Among Young Adults in the United States, Callahan & Cooper, 2004)
- **63% of uninsured Michigianians work full-time or live in a family with a full-time worker. An additional 15% work part-time or have a part-time worker in their family.** (Urban Institute)
- **63% of uninsured Michigianians are below 200% of poverty.** (Kaiser Foundation)
- **In Michigan, 63% of businesses offer health insurance to their employees. 97% of firms with more than 50 employees offer insurance, but only 54% of firms with fewer than 50 employees.** (Kaiser Foundation)
- **Nationwide, 8% of employers with at least 1,000 workers said they had eliminated subsidized retiree health benefits for some workers this year, and 11% more said they probably would do so next year.** (Hewitt Associates)
- **The number of companies that offer health coverage to retirees has declined for 15 years.** (Hewitt Associates)
- **In 2005, health insurance premiums in Michigan for a family with employer-sponsored coverage are \$730 higher due to the unpaid cost of health care for the uninsured.** (Families USA)
- **Since 2000, the cost of employer-based health benefits increased at a rate of five times more than that of wages.** (Health Research & Educational Trust)
- **The average nationwide annual premium for employer health plan for a family of 4 is almost \$10,000 and is predicted to rise to \$14,000 in 2006.** (National Coalition on Health Care and Kaiser Foundation)
- **Michigan will spend more than \$1.1 billion in 2005 to provide uninsured residents with health services, often for preventable diseases or diseases that physicians could treat more efficiently with earlier diagnosis. This will grow to \$1.6 billion by 2010.** (Families USA)
- **Lack of insurance compromises the health of the uninsured because they receive less preventive care, are diagnosed at more advanced disease stages, and once diagnosed, tend to receive less therapeutic care and have higher mortality rates than the insured.** (The National Academies Press)
- **Two in five Americans aged 19-65, or 77 million Americans report they had problems paying medical bills in the last 12 months or were paying off medical debt they had accrued over the past three years.** (Commonwealth Fund)
- **Medical debt now accounts for as much as 50% of personal bankruptcies.** (USA Today)

Health care delivery in the United States is an enormously complex enterprise, and its more than \$1.7 trillion annual expenditures involve a host of competing interests. While arguably the nation offers among the most technologically advanced medical care in the world, the American system consistently underperforms relative to its resources. Gaps in financing and service delivery pose major barriers to improving health, reducing disparities, achieving universal insurance coverage, enhancing quality, controlling costs, and meeting the needs of patients and families.