

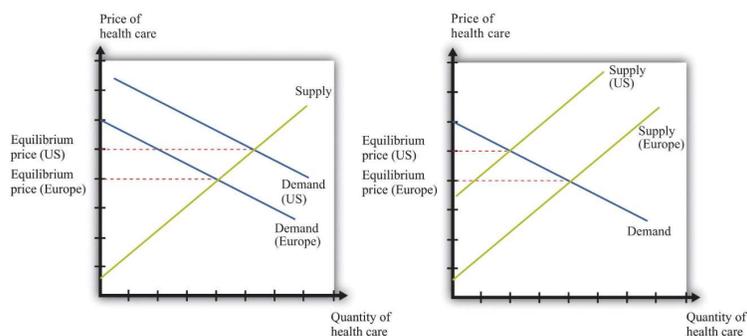
Economics and Effectives; Healthcare resources; Lack of resources; Demand and supply

Health Policy, Management and Economics
Public Health, Lecture 3

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Supply and Demand in Health-Care Markets

Why Health Care in the United States Is More Expensive Than in Europe



Supply and demand offers two possible explanations of high health-care costs in the United States: demand in the United States is high (a), or supply in the United States is limited (b). Neither is a very compelling explanation.

Shortage of Doctors

List of countries and dependencies by number of physicians

#	Country or Dependency	Size	Physicians per 10,000 people	Physicians per 10,000 people
66	 Qatar	2313	28	77.4
101	 Monaco	<u>270</u>	<u>71.7</u>	71.7
77	 Cuba	72416	64	67.2
41	 Greece	59599	54	<u>54</u>
133	 San Marino	<u>163</u>	<u>51.0</u>	51
58	 Spain	163800	38	49.5
2	 Austria	31175	38	48.3
128	 Russia	614183	43	<u>43</u>
113	 Norway	18143	39	42.8
42	 Georgia	19951	45	42.7
86	 Lithuania	13729	40	41.2

Nursing shortage

- ▶ Nursing shortage refers to a situation where the demand for nursing professionals, such as Registered Nurses (RNs), exceeds the supply—locally (e.g., within a health care facility), nationally or globally
- ▶ It can be measured, for instance, when the nurse-to-patient ratio, the nurse-to-population ratio, or the number of job openings necessitates a higher number of nurses than currently available
- ▶ This situation is observed in developed and developing nations around the world
- ▶ Globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates a shortage of almost 4.3 million nurses

Nursing shortage causes

In a study completed by sociologist Bryan Turner, the study found that the most common nursing complaints were:

- ▶ subordination to the medical profession on all matters, even over standardized regulations
- ▶ difficult working conditions

A report from the Commonwealth of Australia identified a few other matters that led to nurse dissatisfaction:

- ▶ constant schedule changes
- ▶ work overloads due to high number of patients and paperwork
- ▶ shift work
- ▶ lack of appreciation by superiors
- ▶ lack of provided childcare
- ▶ inadequate pay

Nursing shortage

Source: Data from the World Health Organization (2006).

Country	Number of nurses	Density per 1,000 population	Year
Canada	309,576	9.95	2003
China	1,358,000	1.05	2001
India	865,135	0.80	2004
Japan	993,628	7.79	2002
New Zealand	31,128	8.16	2001
Nigeria	210,306	0.28	2003
Philippines	127,595	1.69	2000
United Kingdom	704,332	12.12	1997
United States of America	2,669,603	9.37	2000
Zimbabwe	9,357	0.72	2004

Thank you

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