

Rights, Privileges, Health Care

SOCIOLOGY 403: SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Rights and Privileges

What is a right?

What is a privilege?

Health Care

Should health care be a right or privilege?

Health Care: Right or Privilege?

“Health care remains a commodity to be purchased, not a citizen’s right, and people without cash, a credit card, or a medical card are out of luck. Despite feeble pretensions to the contrary, profits, not health care, are the engine that drives the U.S. health care system. One consequence is that the United States is the only industrialized nation without a national health insurance plan.”

~Henslin, p. 321

Roosevelt's Second Bill of Rights

(Jan. 1944)

- **The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries or shops or farms or mines of the nation;**
- **The right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation;**
- **The right of every farmer to raise and sell his products at a return which will give him and his family a decent living;**
- **The right of every businessman, large and small, to trade in an atmosphere of freedom from unfair competition and domination by monopolies at home or abroad;**
- **The right of every family to a decent home;**
- **The right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health;**
- **The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accident, and unemployment;**
- **The right to a good education.**

United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(Dec. 1948)

Article 25:

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Health Care as a Social Problem

**Why does the United States
have such a hard time
living up to and enacting
these ideals?**