

(Free read ebook) Lives at Risk: Single-Payer National Health Insurance Around the World

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John C. Goodman, Gerald L. Musgrave, Devon M. Herrick
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John C. Goodman, Gerald L. Musgrave, Devon M. Herrick : Lives at Risk: Single-Payer National Health Insurance Around the World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lives at Risk: Single-Payer National Health Insurance Around the World:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The good overpowers the bad...By Christopher G. Loverich
The Good: Systematically looks at individual beliefs about health care (ex: Costs, Access, etc) and then attempts to contrast

popular beliefs with cold hard facts. This makes it simple to simply skip to a section that interests you. Moreover, for its breadth, it is a very fast read. Some of the stronger arguments deal with lack of rural access to care, the myth that preventative care will save money, or that a nationalized health system will save money in general (etc...) While the chapter on preventative care is particularly good, the best parts of this book are surprisingly those with the fewest hard data and the most simple logic. For example - the insight that "We could potentially spend our ENTIRE gross domestic product on health care in USEFUL ways" - seems to escape 99% of those currently debating health care. From this argument one can take the real dilemma of health care to its logical conclusion - you have to, in some way, limit care. This can only be done by a) administrative decisions or b) market forces. Thus, the author's make strong arguments for what lies behind those two forces - i.e. what drives administrative decision making and what types of market forces are responsible for determining costs. In the final chapters of the book, the Author's take their own views, using the latter argument, to discuss health savings accounts - their historical use and how they could be used more effectively. This section is the real gem.

The Bad: Well, for starters, the sub-title doesn't really mesh with the overall content. They spend a majority of their arguments on the British NHS which, from what I can tell, is among the worst nationalized health care systems in the developed world. This is too bad as I can see opponents of the author's view writing the work off entirely for not talking more about France or Japan - "Well true that would be bad, but if we implemented it here it would be more like the healthcare systems in Japan, France..." etc etc... In that regard, it neither fully dispels all the myths nor arms those in agreement with the author's with enough data. Overall: The strengths easily outweigh the weakness', and there is enough validity in their arguments to make this worthwhile to just about anyone interested in the current debates. It is too bad the focus seemed to fall on the weaker NHS like systems and not the stronger - for this reason it will too quickly be written off as biased by many.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Great Great Book
By C. Helm
This book is a very informative book. It breaks things down for the average person to understand, but still gives plenty of statistics and facts to make it relevant to anyone. I challenge anyone to read this book with an open mind and still believe in national health care.

4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Debunking the myths of socialized medicine
By Marlena B
Mr Goodman points out some important facts about the uninsured in America, as well as the lies which are pushed by the leftist and the media. He intimately describes the socialized medicine systems throughout the world and compares those systems with America's healthcare system. A well-researched, compelling book! This is a MUST READ for anyone who thinks that Government controlled, single-payer "free" healthcare is what America Needs!!

Virtually everyone agrees that our health care system needs reform. But what kind of reform? Some want a return to the system that prevailed in the 1950s. Others would like to see the adaptation of the government-run systems prevalent in other countries. The latter, national health insurance or single-payer health insurance, appears to be gaining ground in the United States. Before Americans find themselves participating in a health care system that has failed in every country it was adopted, we should be asking ourselves whether such a system is effective and efficient.

In *Lives at Risk*, the authors examine the critical failures of national health insurance systems without focusing on minor blemishes or easily correctable problems. In doing so, the purpose is to identify the problems common to all countries with national health insurance and to explain why these problems emerge. Most national health care systems are in a state of sustained internal crisis as costs rise and the stated goals of universal access and quality care are not met. In almost all cases, the reason is the same: the politics of medicine. The problems of government-run health care systems flow inexorably from the fact that they are government-run rather than market driven.

Thoroughly examines the systemic failures of national health insurance programs around the world. It identifies problems inherent in government-run health care and explains why these problems inevitably emerge. And, it demolishes one by one the prevailing myths put forward by advocates of national health insurance as the solution to issues confronting American health care. (Coverings)

The American Medical Association strongly opposes single-payer national health insurance. *Lives at Risk* provides a wealth of evidence that confirms the AMA's position. (Donald J. Palmisano, M.D., J.D., president, American Medical Association, 2003-2004)

This book will be an eye-opener for anyone who thinks a government-run system is the solution for our health care problem. (Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives)

With the alarming escalation in the cost of health care, drastic changes are critically needed. *Lives at Risk* not only presents the magnitude of this problem, but explores possible solutions, including national insurance, to correct it. This is the best book I have read on this subject. (Kenneth H. Cooper, M.D., M.P.H., author of *Aerobics*)

A single-payer system has great political appeal. It promises to provide quality health care to all, regardless of income, religion, race, or initial state of health. But does it live up to that promise? In this important book, Goodman, Musgrave, and Herrick set out to find the answer. (from the Foreword by Milton Friedman, Nobel laureate and senior research fellow at the Hoover Institution)

Anybody who is tempted by the Canada [single-payer health insurance] model should read *Lives at Risk*. (National)Recommended. (CHOICE)

If you're looking for intellectual ammunition to refute the perennial myths about the triumph of socialized medicine in

the rest of the developed world, this book is essential. (JAMA: The Journal of the American Medical Association) Goodman, Musgrave and Herrick do not just make a hard-boiled assessment of single-payer systems, then run for cover. Instead of the usual worn-out generalities and obsolete assumptions, they point to specific ways to harness the intelligence of consumers and the power of the free market to improve health care in the U.S.. Regardless of whether the reader agrees with the authors' conclusions, *Lives at Risk* helps us to understand how different policy approaches might lead to two very different outcomes for the U.S. health care system: complete meltdown under single-payer health care or transformation into a system driven by consumer demand instead of health care bureaucrats and political expediency. (Health Insurance Underwriter) Goodman and company's book does an especially good job of casting doubt on the common belief that more governmental control of health care will prove more rational, productive, and fair than our current market-state mix. (Reason) About the Author John C. Goodman is the founder and president of the National Center for Policy Analysis. The Wall Street Journal called Dr. Goodman "the father of Medical Savings Accounts," and National Journal declared him "winner of the devolution derby" because his ideas on ways to transfer power from government to the people have had a significant impact on Capitol Hill. He is the author of seven books. Gerald L. Musgrave is president of Economics America, Inc., a senior fellow at the National Center for Policy Analysis, and a fellow at the National Association of Business Economists and chairman of its Health Economics Roundtable. Dr. Musgrave has written widely on health care and other issues and is the author or co-author of more than 60 publications. Devon M. Herrick is senior fellow at the National Center for Policy Analysis.