

Afterword

Our survey of national health insurance in countries around the world provides convincing evidence that government control of health care usually makes citizens worse off. When health care is free at the point of consumption, rationing by waiting is inevitable. Government control of the health care system makes the rationing problem worse as governments attempt to slow the use of services by limiting access to modern medical technology. Under government management, both efficiency and quality of patient care steadily deteriorate.

The lesson from other countries is that Americans would be ill-served by more government bureaucracy or more governmental control over our health care system. We need instead to limit the role of government and expand the role of the private sector and the individual in solving our health care problems.

