



Free, Universal Health Care

- Health care is free to all workers and their children with support from the government, employers, and a portion of the workers' paychecks.¹
- Military personnel do not contribute part of their paychecks to paying for healthcare.¹

Private Health Care Sector

- Workers have the option to purchase private insurance in addition to paying the portion of their paycheck towards public insurance.¹
- Cleaner, less crowded, more technologically advanced clinics as compared to other urban hospitals.
- Much shorter wait times to see a doctor.
- Only found in urban areas.

Access to care in Urban and Rural Ecuador

- Wait times were the most important barrier to access to health care in the urban setting of Quito.
- Public transportation was convenient and affordable (25 cents each way) in Quito with a bus stop at the entrance of most of the hospitals.
- Lack of medical equipment for specific procedures was the main reason for not receiving the proper care at the hospital in rural Chone.
- Chone, and surrounding smaller towns, have no public transportation. Getting to the hospital from the surrounding areas is difficult and creates a barrier to accessing care for people living in rural Ecuador.

La Maternidad, Quito, Ecuador²



Hospital Napoleon Davila, Chone, Ecuador³



Health Concerns in Urban v. Rural Ecuador

- Urban Quito has similar health concerns to those seen in the US including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and hypertension.
- Dengue Fever is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Chone.
- Machete injuries and falls from trees make up a large portion of emergency room visits in Chone.
- Teen pregnancy rates in Ecuador are among the highest in the world.
- For men in Ecuador, a leading cause of death is motor vehicle accidents¹ especially among taxi drivers. This is most likely due to lax traffic laws and lack of seatbelt use.

Bringing Lessons to the United States

- It is important for providers to understand the geographic region a patient lives within to properly address their health concerns and alleviate potential barriers to care
- While the Ecuadorian health system is not perfect, universal health care coverage works well and the people of Ecuador are satisfied with universal health care and the option to further purchase private insurance.

References

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