



FAITH & FACTS

Health Care

Health and Wholeness

What does the Bible say?



So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them. **(Genesis 1:27)**

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you ... and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will have your welfare. **(Jeremiah 29:7)**

Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. **(Ezekiel 34:4)**

The LORD who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry; sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. **(Psalm 146:7-8)**

I came that you might have life and have it abundantly. **(John 10:10)**

What does The United Methodist Church say?

Health care is a basic human right. (Social Principles ¶162 T)

Health is a condition of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being, and we view it as a responsibility: public and private. (Social Principles 162 T)

As long ago as 1983, a presidential Committee on Medical Ethics wrote: "Measures designed to contain health care costs that exacerbate existing inadequacies or impede the achievement of equity are unacceptable from a moral standpoint." All six billion members of God's global family live along a spectrum from sick to well. Lessons learned in every society, from the United States to every other one, are valuable to the health of all. Our goal will be the greatest health for all people in all respects. (2004 Book of Resolutions, #109 "Health and Wholeness")



What do the facts say?

47 million people in the U.S. lack health insurance, 12.7% of the total population lives in poverty (37 million people)¹ and 10.8 million suffer from hunger²



Proposed change to military spending in FY07 budget: \$79 billion increase. Proposed change to State Children's Health Insurance Program: The President's budget includes \$5 billion; his veto of the SCHIP reauthorization leaves out 5 million children who would otherwise be uninsured.³

¹US Census Bureau

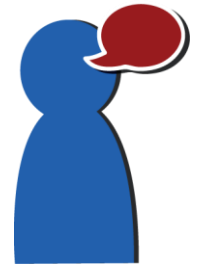
²Food Research Action center


³Families USA

What do you say?

Take action for justice ...

- Remind your Member of Congress that health care is a right and not a commodity. Our priority for health should reflect our shared values honoring human life and correcting inequity particularly as it affects the poor, the disabled and vulnerable populations who cannot afford or do not have access to health care. Take action today at www.umpower.org.
- Learn more about federal spending decisions. Visit the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (www.cbpp.org) for the latest analysis of proposed legislation or the National Priorities Project (www.nationalpriorities.org) to see exactly how your tax dollars are being spent.
- Make a commitment to value health for others and for yourself equally.





For more information contact:
Cynthia Abrams
cabrams@umc-gbcs.org
 General Board of Church and Society
 100 Maryland Ave, NE
 Washington, DC 20002
www.umc-gbcs.org