

Health systems, economics and policy

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Semester 1

First lecture: Monday, 24 September

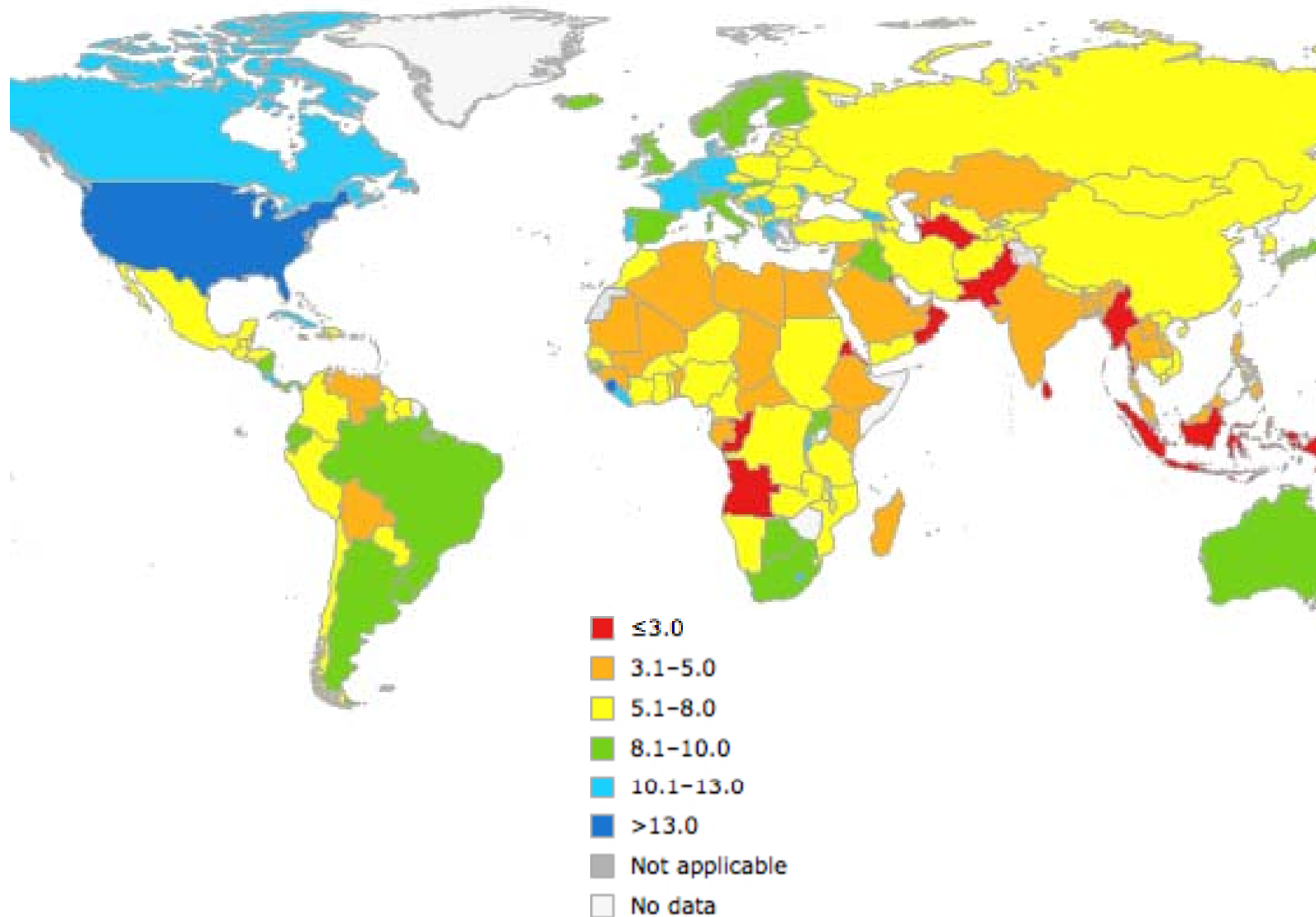
Aim: to enable students to analyse and evaluate health care systems in both developed and developing countries from the perspective of equity of access to comprehensive health care services



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**Total expenditure on health as a percentage of gross domestic product
(measured in US\$), July 2012, WHO
Angola 2.9%, USA 17.9%**



Estimated sources of excess costs in US market system of health care
 (2009) (US Institute of Medicine report, 2012)
 (Total spending at 2009: \$2.9 trillion; 50 million Americans cannot get
 health insurance)

Category	Sources	Excess Costs
Unnecessary Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overuse—beyond evidence-established levels • Discretionary use beyond benchmarks • Unnecessary choice of higher-cost services 	\$210 billion
Inefficiently Delivered Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mistakes—errors, preventable complications • Care fragmentation • Unnecessary use of higher-cost providers • Operational inefficiencies at care delivery sites 	\$130 billion
Excess Administrative Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance paperwork costs beyond benchmarks • Insurers' administrative inefficiencies • Inefficiencies due to care documentation requirements 	\$190 billion
Prices That Are Too High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service prices beyond competitive benchmarks • Product prices beyond competitive benchmarks 	\$105 billion
Missed Prevention Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary prevention • Secondary prevention • Tertiary prevention 	\$55 billion

Avoidable deaths attributable to MDG-related conditions: the problem of organization

- More than 530,000 women die of conditions linked to pregnancy every year
- Pneumonia and diarrhoea still kill 3.8 million children under 5 each year (in 2008, no Swedish child died of diarrhoea) (WHO, 2007)
- Public health raises economic and political questions