

Секция «География»

**The main problems of the health care development in Ukraine**

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A health of the population is an indicator of socio-economic development, an integral part of the level and quality of life in the country. The current economic situation in Ukraine and its regions characterized by the dramatic changes in all spheres, including health care, from effectiveness of which depends the health of nation.

An average life expectancy in Ukraine is much lower than in other European countries. A half of Ukrainian adult population suffers from one or more chronic diseases. Ukraine is a leader among the Commonwealth of Independent States by the incidence of cardiovascular disease, tuberculosis, injuries, disabilities and AIDS.

The current model of health care is based on the principles introduced during the Soviet times and has a number of shortcomings, on which we want to draw a special attention. In our opinion, the major problems in the field of health care at this stage of socio-economic development are:

1. A lack of resources for health care sector, in particular a low share of health care expenditures relative to gross domestic product (GDP) of Ukraine. For the last five years it varies around 3-4%, which is lower than the world average cost almost 3 times;

2. Disadvantages in the mechanisms of public financing of health care. Despite on some increase in recent years of budget financing of health care, its size in per capita terms is very low, which leads to increase in the share of personal spending (both formal and informal) and the substitution of free medical care by paid;

3. Imperfection of structural and organizational model. In Ukraine, in addition to the health care system, which reports to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, there are a number of parallel health services, systems, ministries and departments (total 14), the financing of which spent 42.3% of health expenditures from the state budget;

4. An inefficient use of available resources. A duplication of health services at the different levels of care. A regional disparities of health care;

5. A low access to the quality health services. An uncontrolled pricing system and absence of state provision of medicines. The consequence of the above is that more than half of Ukrainian population can't afford the necessary medicine because of high price.

As follows, there is a need for changes in the system of health care in Ukraine. The main priority areas of reform should be the development of primary health care on the principles of family medicine, the structural reorganization of the health care system, the transition to the contractual terms of health care, the development of health insurance, the implementation of efficient pharmaceutical policy.

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