

**Health, Culture, & Society:
A Content Analysis of Health Provisions in the Stimulus Package**

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OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

The Stimulus Package

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ARRA of 2009

HITECH Act

TAA Health Coverage Improvement Act

Purposes of The Stimulus Package

spur technological advancements in science and health

stabilize state and local government budgets

direct implications for the health status of the U.S.

not healthcare reform legislation

Cultural Context of the Analysis

Critical prelim analysis, exploratory, foundation for full analysis

health as a human right

culture: common attitudes, beliefs, traditions, values

health disparities: disproportionate negative health impact of disease on cultural group, access

gender, SES, race, religion, region, country, etc.

impact on risk awareness, health behaviors, lifestyle

Content Analysis

roots in mass communications

applied in intercultural comm, political science

provide insight into the communicator, message, context, and sociocultural background of the communication and its effect

textual analysis

Health Provisions & Application

seek explicit and implicit opportunities

cannot be implemented in a vacuum

foundation for other fed, state, and local organizations

health status and economic growth have bi-directional relationship

influence on social determinants and indicators

Process

Four phases - THOMAS Library of Congress

I - Reading Division Titles

II - Reading Division Subtitles (titles ~20 pages)

III - Section content searches for health to determine relevant content

IV - Close reading, analysis of content

Title Selection

Division A

Title VIII - DOL, HHS, Education and Related Agencies

Title XIII - HIT

Division B

Title III - Premium Assistance for COBRA Benefits
Title IV - Medicare and Medicaid HIT; Misc. Medicare Provisions
Title V - State Fiscal Relief

Findings

EXPLICIT

6 references to health disparities
1 reference to minorities
No references to Asians, Latinos, African-Americans
Extensive ref. to Indian Health Service

IMPLICIT (Opportunities)

Applicable partnerships, grant opportunities, and programs that can impact health disparities although not stated in the legislation

Content Categories

Applicable to eliminating health disparities and the burden of disease in marginalized populations:

1. Budgetary Provisions
2. Health Information Technology
3. Healthcare Workforce
4. Research Funding

Next Steps

For full content analysis and subsequent policy analysis:

extension to other cultural categories (e.g. women)

extension of qualitative method to include observation of affected populations

stakeholder in-depth interviews

expert collaboration for interpretive policy analysis

additional iterations of the content analysis; ACTION!
