

Opinions on Health & Care Seeking

Abstract:

Health care is high on the policy agenda of most governments in Europe, mainly due to rising costs. Within Europe there are large differences in the provision of care. Some countries provide health care abundantly, to the point of medicalising society, while in other countries, publicly funded healthcare merely provides the basic necessities. The provision of services, along with a host of social and cultural factors, may have a strong influence on how people perceive their own health and how they seek care when ill. This module aims at providing data with which to map the interrelationships between structure and culture regarding the topic of health and care seeking. It addresses the following topics:

- Concepts of health. What does (good) health mean to people? Is health primarily the absence of illness or is health defined differently: the ability to function, energy, self-fulfilment?
- Concepts of illness. When is a symptom considered as illness? What kind of symptoms require medical attention?
- Seeking of ambulatory health care and taking medicines, attitudes towards treatment, perception of the doctor-patient relationship.

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