Primary health care

Effectiveness of primary health care evaluated by a longitudinal ecological approach

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The expansion of primary health care in Brazil is shaping the agenda for health care policy in the Latin American region.

Brazil is the country with the third worst income distribution in the world and, as a consequence of the unequal distribution of its main determining factors—income, education, living conditions, sanitation, and health service—"the health indicators also present broad inequalities by regions and social classes. Child health, because of greater vulnerability to risks and also to health protective factors, is a clear example of this iniquitous situation in

New Orleans and the coastal poor, including health and education programmes, home care, energy conservation; water quality and wastewater infrastructure; high speed rail development and new public transit; neighbourhood investment and minority business development, legal services for the poor and local emergency worker grants."

In the new century, US leaders’ commitment has been to “free market” solutions to public issues. This wake up moment could be more healthfully used to restore financing to reduce poverty to at least European levels; to rebuild adequate public health and safety capacity, and to enable tools to protect environments, moving toward a new energy future, for example, a national intercity rail system, linking small and large cities, spurring rural development, new transportation options, conservation, energy efficiency technologies and buildings, new energy sources and new good jobs, training and education, discouraging sprawl and expensive houses.

REFERENCES

THE JECH GALLERY

Public health leader—heal thyself

A poster display seen at a public health conference.

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References