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GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION ON HEALTH PLANNING IN THE
UNITED STATES FROM 1935-1984 WITH AN EMPHASIS ON
CITIZENS PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH PLANNING

by

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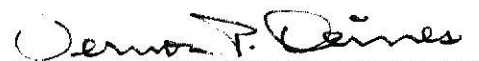
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INTRODUCTION: WHY THIS REPORT

The primary objective of this report is to look at the development of health planning and citizens participation and its relationship to government legislation on health care from 1935 to the present. Advances in the health care field have changed how citizens view health care. Health planners are experts who help local communities in health planning. Health care is a state of well being and all Americans would like to achieve this goal. Health as defined by the World Health Organization, is "a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

In the last decade, the role that citizens play in the health planning process has made significant progress. The federal and local governments have made it possible for citizens to be involved in human rights, minority rights and health care. Government officials are beginning to understand that a balance of power must take place between health planners and citizens who purchase health care service.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed a "declaration of rights" for all Americans. Under President Lyndon B. Johnson, consumer education programs grew rapidly. He understood that current and adequate information was important in understanding health care and eliminating some of the waste of federal dollars. The President wanted to pay special attention to

minority people and special interest groups including the elderly, low income people and teenagers.

During the 1960's and 1970's, the United States government debated the issue of how to finance and manage it's growing health care system. Methods have been developed to improve the quality of health care services through:

- government legislation on health care;
- involvement of citizens in health planning;
- providing current information on health care;
- creating community health care, and health planning organizations;
- health organizations developed at the neighborhood level; and
- creating citizens health planning boards at the local, state and federal level.

These methods may provide a better quality of service for all involved in health care.

Health planners must develop an adequate health care delivery system because of the rising cost of health services. The high cost of health care is important to rural poor, senior citizens and handicapped people in this country.

Key Issues

Health planners plan hospitals for communities who need the service. The quality of performance in the health care system is sometimes different from one health care organization to another. The reason for the inconsistency is because there is not a universal measurement tool for health care.