HEALTHCARE IN BRAZIL

The Brazilian constitution defines health as a “fundamental right”, holding the government responsible for providing citizens with healthcare.

The United Health System (SUS) provides universal healthcare to citizens and legal residents. Private health insurance is also available at an added cost.

HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

Many middle and high income Brazilians purchase private health insurance in addition to their SUS coverage due to the comfort and technological advancements the system offers.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SUS)

Funding
SUS is funded by federal, state, and municipal governments

Health outcomes
Since the system’s implementation, Brazil has experienced an increase in life expectancy and a reduction in infectious diseases, despite recent outbreaks

Special Programs
The Programa Saúde da Família (PSF) provides primary care in low income areas through teams of healthcare professionals

Current Challenges
Low doctor/patient ratios in public healthcare facilities, high hospital wait times, and resource scarcity in public hospitals. These problems are exacerbated in poorer states

PRIVATE HEALTH

50 million Brazilians are covered by private plans

Brazil is the second largest private health market in the world

57% of health spending is private sector

Funding
The private sector is financed by patient expenditures and partially by the government through tax breaks from privately insured individuals who use high cost services and receive complex procedures through SUS

Spending
More than half of private sector spending comes from out of pocket payments for services in private hospitals

Current Challenges
As private healthcare is based in hospitals, not primary care facilities, the private sector shifts to focus away from preventative care to the treatment of already sick patients. High costs of insurance also pose problems for some patients

COVID-19
As the Covid-19 pandemic progresses, the government may temporarily nationalize private hospitals to account for shortages in public hospitals

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