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U.S. Healthcare System Performs Poorly in Many Areas

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In the report, "Why Not the Best? Results From a National Scorecard on U.S. Health System," by the Commonwealth Fund, the U.S. healthcare system is operating below average considering the level of investment in healthcare. The study finds that the United States scored an average of 66 out of a total of 100 on thirty-seven national indicators related to healthcare access, efficiency, quality, and equity. It also reported that the U.S. ranked at the bottom on healthy life expectancy at birth and age 60 among industrialized countries. There are also significant disparities between national averages and levels of higher performance including the percentage of adults obtaining screening and preventive care, hospital deaths and national spending on insurance administrative costs. The study found that there was a change regarding the quality of healthcare from state to state and across hospitals and health plans. Furthermore, it stated that the country could save approximately 100,000 to 150,000 lives and an estimated \$50 billion to \$100 billion annually. To read or download the complete report (36 pages, PDF), visit: <http://online.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10004498/story/>