**Introduction**

In 2010, President Barack Obama signed the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. The Affordable Care Act seeks to extend coverage to roughly 50 million uninsured Americans. It also seeks to eliminate the ability for insurance companies to reject a patient due to pre-existing conditions, allowing children to remain on their parents’ health insurance until age 26, and expand the eligibility of Medicaid for millions of Americans.

**Background**

- **1950** - Progressive reformers argue for health insurance.
- **1970** - Reformers now emphasize the cost of medical care instead of wages lost to sickness - the relatively higher cost of medical care is a new and dramatic development, especially for the middle class.
- **1980** - Social Security Act is passed, omitting health insurance. A greater emphasis is placed on unemployment insurance and ‘old age’ benefits.
- **1990** - Against the advice of insurance professionals, Blue Cross begins offering private coverage for hospital care in dozens of states.
- **1995** - During the 2nd World War, wage and price controls are placed on American employers. To compete for workers, companies begin to offer health benefits, giving rise to the employer-based system.
- **2010** - President Obama offers a national health program plan that would include all of American society. Truman’s plan is denounced by the American Medical Association (AMA), and is called a Communist plot by a House subcommittee.
- **1990** - Attention turns to Korea and away from health reform; America will have a system of private insurance for those who can afford it and welfare services for the poor.
- **1940** - Those outside the workplace, especially the elderly, have difficulty affording insurance even with over 700 insurance companies selling health insurance.
- **2010** - U.S. Public Health care only covers 28% of the population, about 33 million people out of 300 million.
- **1960** - The United States is the only developed nation without a universal, or public, health care system.
- **2010** - One in six Americans has no health insurance.
- **2010** - Lack of health care hinders educational and employment opportunities.

**Research Question**

Does the Affordable Care Act help those living in poverty?

**Findings**

- **Uninsured population, with and without health reform**

  - The United States spends about $2.2 trillion annually on health care.
  - U.S. Public Health care only covers 28% of the population, about 33 million people out of 300 million.
  - The United States is the only developed nation without a universal, or public, health care system.
  - One in six Americans has no health insurance.
  - Lack of health care hinders educational and employment opportunities.

**Results**

We have many people in our nation in need of health care. We can see how without health care reform, the numbers of uninsured persons increases. We also found that although it might costs individuals more money that health care reform can prevent the number of preventable deaths by a great amount.

The Affordable Care Act predicts to insure 33 million by 2022.

**Conclusions**

From our research, our group concludes that the Affordable Care Act does and will help the poor. By having health care, individuals with low socioeconomic status are likely to be treated for diagnosable disorders and ailments, reducing the amount of people unable to work or go to school.

However, we also conclude that the Affordable Care Act, while helping low socioeconomic people, will not change the inequality in the health gap between the rich and poor. That requires educating the poor on proper nutrition, providing them with better employment opportunities and adopting programs that help poor people seek medical care.

**References**


