

U.S. Falling Behind International Competitors in Health Care, Poverty

AUGUST 4, 2006 - A new report from the Economic Policy Institute shows the U.S. lags woefully behind other industrialized nations in a number of areas.

Perhaps most shocking was the United States record on health care. The U.S. spends more on health care than any other advanced industrialized nation – yet has the largest uninsured population at 16 percent.

The report also found the U.S. had some of the highest poverty rates – despite having the second highest per capita income.

By some measures – at 17 percent - the U.S. had the highest level of overall poverty. Meanwhile, child poverty in the U.S. is nearly 22 percent.

Finally – the report found the U.S. has the largest gap between the rich and the poor.

The findings will be part of EPI's "The State of Working America" – a comprehensive review of the U.S. labor market and living standards.