

Geographic variation in hospitalization use in France

Geographic variation in use of healthcare services has been widely studied in the US, where excessive variation is considered evidence of healthcare system waste that could be reduced by policy interventions. In France, geographic variation in use of healthcare services has not been as widely studied. In this lecture, Dr. Weeks will provide results of his analysis of geographic variation in the use of hospitals for common elective surgical procedures and for ambulatory care sensitive conditions in France between 2009 – 2013. Trends in rates of admission, characteristics of admissions, use of for-profit and not-for-profit hospitals, and comparisons to rates of admission in the US will be explored.



William B. Weeks, MD, PhD, MBA, is Professor of Psychiatry and of Community and Family Medicine at The Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. There, he works at The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice as a Senior Research Scientist, where he teaches in several masters programs and conducts research on health economics, healthcare value, physician incomes, the complementary and alternative medicine market, and geographic variation in health services utilization in France. He is also Chair, Clinical and Health Services Research Program, at the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport Iowa. There, he works on how doctors of chiropractic and other complementary and alternative medicine providers supply healthcare services, and how their patients use such services.

Dr. Weeks has published over 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts examining economic and business aspects of rural veterans' health care services utilization and delivery, physicians' return on educational investment, and health care delivery science, including patient safety, quality improvement, Accountable Care Organizations, complementary and alternative medicine, geographic variation, and healthcare value.

The Fulbright-Tocqueville Distinguished Chair in American Studies was offered for the first time in 2005, marking the bicentennial of the birth of Alexis de Tocqueville, the famous French historian and politician and author of "Democracy in America". Since 2010, the chair position is open to all fields. The award aims to reinforce collaborative research between France and the United States in France at the highest possible level; This is the most prestigious Fulbright award offered in France.

Thanks to the French Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research and the Department of State, eighteen American professors of reknown have been welcomed in French higher learning institutions since 2005. Their research subjects were and still are at the heart of current events. During their stay in France they taught Masters level students and doctoral seminars. They participated in specialized debates, conferences for the general public and actively helped to develop long term cooperative programs between universities.

French institutions selected as hosts since 2005 are : Aix-Marseille University (2015), University of Bordeaux (2015) the Université de Caen-Basse Normandie (2014), the Ecole Normale Supérieure-Ulm (2014), the Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 (2013), the Université Denis Diderot Paris 7 (2013), the Université de Montpellier 2 (2012), the Université de Poitiers (2012), the Université Paris IV Sorbonne (2010), the Université de Cergy Pontoise (2011, 2009), the Ecole de Santé de Paris-Sud (2009), the Université Paris 8 Vincennes-Saint Denis (2008), the Université Paris Dauphine (2007), the Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne (2013,2006), the Université François Rabelais à Tours (2006), the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences sociales (2006).