

Financial schemes to increase accessibility of health services for people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage

Population	People experiencing socio-economic disadvantage (including people working on minimum wage)
Intervention/Exposure	Financial approaches or services to encourage the provision of health services not covered by the RAMQ (RAMQ: Québec government basic health coverage)
Comparator	Lack of services
Outcomes	Any condition that requires health services not covered by the RAMQ

Interview Details:

Why did you choose this topic and why is it important to you?

- Has lived experience with significant health concerns causing them to stop working and become socio-economically disadvantaged.
- Experienced negative physical and psychological impact because of not being able to receive financial schemes or program services, due to lack of funds.
- Allowing people in socio-economic disadvantaged situations to obtain financial scheme or program services could lead to an overall improvement for many and allow them to contribute to society.

What do you hope to learn from researching this topic?

- The consequences (in Québec) of not receiving services in the short, medium and long-term for people living in a situation of socio-economic disadvantage, who need health services not covered by the RAMQ (Québec's healthcare coverage).
- The kind of approaches, alternatives or financial services that could be put in place to address these consequences (e.g., SPOT Clinic).
- The barriers to accessing health services not covered by the RAMQ.

Who needs to know about the findings?

- INSPQ (Québec Public Health Institute)
- Public health authorities
- Chair on the reduction of inequalities at Université du Québec à Montréal
- Faculty of Medicine at Laval University
- General population


Is there anything that you feel a panel of patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, and policy-makers should keep in mind when reviewing this topic?

- The long-term goal is to promote social justice in health.
- The lack of access to health services for this group of people has consequences for society.
- People living in socio-economic vulnerability are human beings in the same way as those who can afford the care required by their health situation.

Feasibility Assessment Results

Summary:

One scoping review was identified during the scoping literature search. The following review by Harnagea et al (2017) was assessed using AMSTAR-2. A summary of the AMSTAR-2 assessment is provided in the table below.

Review #1: Harnagea et al, 2017
LOW quality rating 
Critical flaw: Missing 1 checklist item Study design: Scoping review

Conclusion:

This topic has a low quality scoping review, which suggests that there is scope to conduct further research in this area.