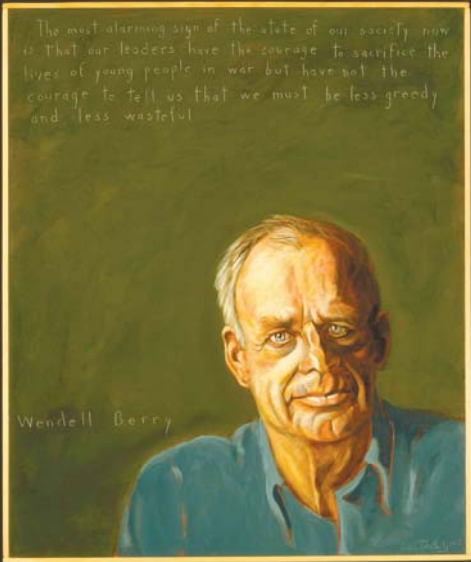


Health Services Research

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Too much power,
not enough knowledge

Too much power

- Health research emphasis heavily weighted towards individual, clinical, intervention with disease
- Bias towards efficacy—finding a leverage point where the professional can act towards optimum outcome

Not enough knowledge

- Health, illness, and access to healthcare are complex social processes
- Strong influences are factors outside the direct influence of clinicians, such as stigma, insurance, social relationships.
- These factors are often understudied—especially in an applied manner to specific health issues.

Health services research...

- Examines the whole set of social processes that impact access to effective health care.
- Is based at the intersection of the social sciences and the health professions
- Uses the full range of social science methods to answer research questions

Major meta-concepts...

- Poverty
- Race, Gender, Social class
- Healthcare access
- Social support, network, capital
- Culture
- Stigma
- Health professions

Approaches

- Clinical epidemiology
- Cost-effectiveness
- Modeling access to care
- Administrative data analysis
- Policy analysis
- Social interventions
- Clinical service interventions
- C.B.P.R.

Challenges

- Funding (of course)
- Workforce
- Limited preliminary research
- Internal validity limited by lack of capacity to control environments
- Discipline orphan?

Strengths

- External validity
- Local Knowledge
- Conceptual rigor valued as part of methodological rigor
- Versatility—not a guild constrained to one discipline or profession
- Effectiveness

The knowledge we offer



- Social Context
- Theory and practice
- Institutions (hospitals, clinics, prisons, schools)
- Access