Teitelbaum and Wilensky (2023) describe problems in the United States healthcare system as follows: “the coverage and financing of health care, healthcare quality, health disparities, and threats to population health.” These are all pressing issues in healthcare for the country, however the financing of healthcare and healthcare quality are probably the two most important ones to discuss.

One issue with financing healthcare is the discrepancy between what the U.S. government is actually spending versus what is recorded. From 2000-2018, the U.S. spent $93 billion on public health spending (Leider, J. P., Resnick, B., McCullough, J. M., Alfonso, Y. N., & Bishai, D., 2020). However, that number is more likely estimated to be between $35-$64 billion because the $93 billion reported also included individual healthcare services, such as behavioral health (Leider et al., 2020). It is important to know the exact value of what is spent for policymakers and when it comes to the allocation of resources (Leider et al., 2020).

Watkins and Rappleyea (2024) attribute a gap between nursing education and clinical practice to be contributing to the poor healthcare quality in the United States. The American Colleges of Nursing [AACN] designed the new *Essentials* in 2021 to help bridge and improve the gap between nursing education and practice (Watkins and Rappleyea, 2024). One author found in a literature review that “effective academic practice partnerships lead to improved patient care outcomes, safer care provisions, improved culture of quality patient care, clinical research, and decreased [hospital readmission](https://www-sciencedirect-com.ezproxy.king.edu/topics/nursing-and-health-professions/hospital-readmission) rates” (Watkins and Rappleyea, 2024, as cited in Alamri, 2020). Some recommendations to improve this gap are integrating nursing faculty into clinical practice, nurse mentorships, collaborative research with nurse scientists to conduct quality improvement projects (Watkins and Rappleyea, 2024).

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