



Global Perspectives on Health Equity: Policy Recommendations for Inclusive Healthcare

Highlights

- Health equity is a major concern worldwide, spanning regions and income levels. Countries recognize the importance of addressing health disparities to ensure fair access to healthcare.
- Health Inequality Aversion Surveys provide insights into how different nations perceive health inequality. These surveys help measure the extent to which people prioritize equity over efficiency in healthcare decisions.
- Findings show that, regardless of region or income level, people tend to prioritize the health of disadvantaged groups. This suggests a widespread commitment to reducing health disparities.
- In some countries, the desire to reduce inequality is so strong that people are willing to sacrifice overall health improvements. This highlights the deep-rooted value placed on fairness in healthcare distribution.

Result

The survey categorized respondents into 5 distinct groups based on their emphasis on **reducing inequality** versus **enhancing efficiency** in the healthcare system ▶

PRO-RICH:

Individuals who prioritize improving the health of the wealthy exclusively.

HEALTH MAXIMIZERS:

Those who focus solely on enhancing the overall efficiency of the healthcare system.

WEIGHTED PRIORITARIANS:

Participants who assign greater importance to improving the health of disadvantaged groups over the wealthy.

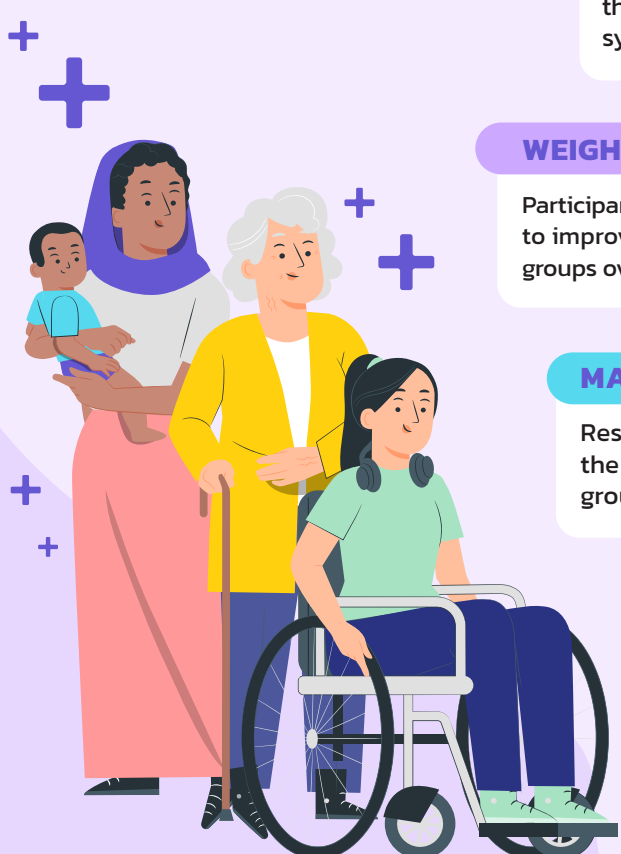
MAXIMIN:

Respondents who exclusively prioritize the health of the most disadvantaged groups in society.

EGALITARIANS:

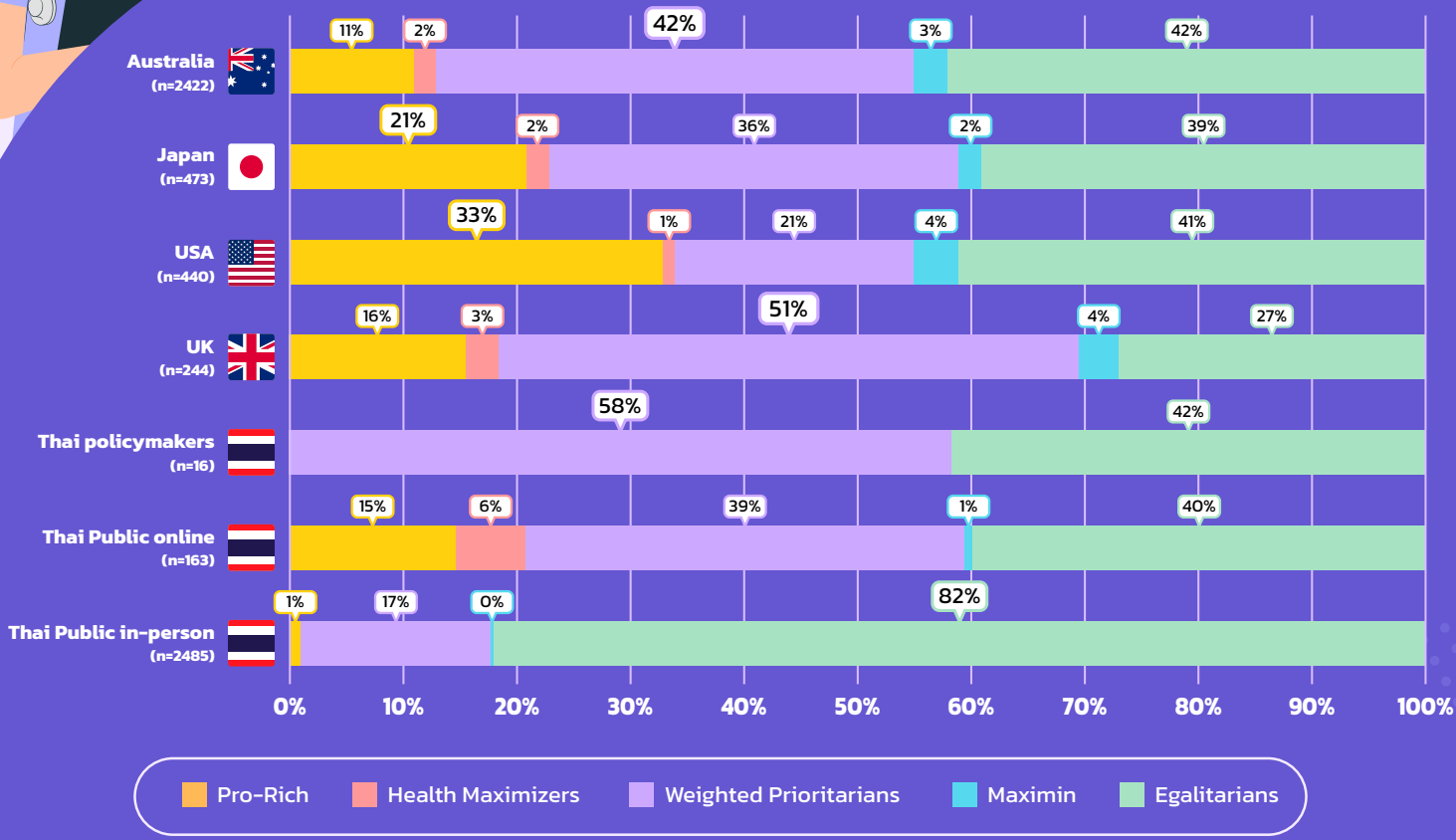
Individuals who place such a high value on reducing health inequalities that they are willing to forgo potential benefits to disadvantaged groups.

5
respondents
groups






Aversion to health inequality across countries



82%

Thailand (especially in-person respondents) shows the most robust commitment to egalitarian principles, with a large majority favoring strict equality in health outcomes.



58%

Thai policymakers show a strong weighted prioritarian stance, suggesting they are attuned to both fairness and efficiency, aligning with trends seen in the UK and Australia.




33% **21%**

The USA and Japan stand out with higher pro-rich preferences, signaling less public appetite for redistributive healthcare policies.



Across all countries, pure efficiency (health maximization) and extreme prioritization of the worst-off (maximin) are relatively rare, with most populations preferring balanced approaches to equity.



Policy Implications



► **Prioritize equity-driven healthcare policies** by strengthening universal health coverage, targeting disadvantaged populations, and integrating equity-efficiency trade-offs to ensure fair and sustainable healthcare delivery.

► **Balance equity and efficiency in resource allocation** by embedding equity considerations into cost-effectiveness analyses and designing interventions that reduce health disparities while optimizing overall health outcomes.



► **Advance targeted interventions through incremental reforms** that reduce barriers to care, improve access for underserved populations, and frame policies to highlight broad societal benefits to foster public support.

► **Design context-specific policies informed by public preferences**, foster inclusive public engagement, tailor communication to societal values, and continuously contribute to the global discourse on balancing health equity and efficiency in decision-making.



About Research

Health Inequality Aversion Survey

is a method used to assess the trade-off between improving health efficiency and reducing health inequality.



This survey has been conducted in several countries, including the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, and India, with a recent implementation in Thailand. The survey results help determine the extent to which people prioritize reducing health inequality. This study is part of the Distributional Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (DCEA) in Thailand, and its findings will be integrated into the DCEA model.

Reference

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