**A Comparative Study of Emergency Medicine in Honduras and Chile**

**Allison Booher, B.S./B.A. 2021 Vanderbilt University**

**Abstract**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 16,000 people around the world die every day from trauma. In recent decades, there has been an increase in efforts to develop the international field of Emergency Medicine (EM). Unfortunately, this development has occurred disproportionately in high- and high-middle-income countries, creating a global economic disparity in trauma care and patient outcomes. According to the United Nations, the expansion of associated initiatives among Latin American countries has led to significant economic growth in the region. Chile, a high-income nation that has experienced a development explosion for its Emergency Medical system in the past twenty years, has been a leader in progress initiatives associated with nearby countries.

This brief study analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively the differences between some key elements of the public emergency in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and Santiago, Chile, focusing on two main urban hospitals. A series of interviews with healthcare providers and an assessment of alignment with WHO standards were conducted in both hospitals. The goal of the study was to determine if there are potential growth areas for UM systems in the two cities, especially in low-income countries such as Honduras.

Based on existing literature that suggests a global trajectory of specialization as a prerequisite for healthcare development, it was hypothesized that the comparison of both quantitative factors of Emergency Medicine and qualitative interviews of Emergency Medical personnel will indicate that the EM specialization is a practical and fundamental step for development. In both countries, the interviews with providers indicated that specialization, namely having an Emergency Physician overseeing the Emergency Department, had the potential to streamline the EM continuum of care. Despite significant disparities in wealth and political stability between Honduras and Chile, the implementation of specialized training for physicians, while being mindful of the respective availability of resources in a particular healthcare system, could be a reasonable step for the development of Emergency Medicine worldwide.