

If you don't regularly receive my reports, request a free subscription at [steve\\_bakke@comcast.net](mailto:steve_bakke@comcast.net) !  
Follow me on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@BakkeSteve> and receive links to my posts and more!  
Visit my website at <http://www.myslantonthings.com> !

## **BE CAREFUL WHEN PRAISING CUBA'S HEALTHCARE STATISTICS!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  February 20, 2018

*Here's what provoked me:*

*For years I've been reading and hearing about the excellent Cuban healthcare system. Remember Michael Moore's embarrassing 2007 documentary movie "Sicko"? I didn't expect to see these claims reported so boldly, and without contradicting opinion, in the Minneapolis Star Tribune.*

*Here's my response:*

### **Be Careful When Praising Cuba's Healthcare Statistics!**

Occasionally we read about Cuba's successful health care system. One example is "Lessons from Cuba on infant mortality," from the January 14 Star Tribune. Cuban doctors might learn some things from serving people in the depths of poverty, patients with low expectations, while using outdated technology and having limited resources to depend upon. But whatever wisdom that brings, expert prenatal and pediatric care applicable for the general population of Americans isn't one of them.

The author was impressed that Cuba's infant mortality is about 25% better than that for the U.S. Praise was extended even on the floor of the Senate in 2014 by Iowa's then-Sen. Harkin. What wasn't reported anywhere was that two different measurement procedures are in play.

In the U.S., a child's death after a live birth is just that, a tragic infant death. But in Cuba, a newborn must live for a number of hours after birth to ever be counted as a birth at all. This information comes from a long history of reports by Cuban physician defectors. For example, Dr. Rodolfo Stusser, former adviser to the Cuban Ministry of Public Health, reported that the ministry has manipulated health data for decades. That same official also reported that abortion is aggressively used to solve complicated pregnancies or those with potentially abnormal fetuses. Those practices eliminate a lot of infant mortality events.

Please be skeptical, and I invite you to conduct your own research.