

3-14-2009

# Critical Conjuncture and Change in Institutional Health in Argentina in the 1940s

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## Recommended Citation

Belmartino, S. "Critical Conjuncture and Change in Institutional Health in Argentina in the 1940s." (2009).  
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## Document # 3B

### SC20073(2)Belmartino

**Belmartino S. Coyuntura crítica y cambio institucional en salud: Argentina en los años '40. [Critical Conjuncture and Change in Institutional Health in Argentina in the 1940s.] Salud Colectiva (Buenos Aires, Argentina) 2007 mayo-agosto; 3(2):177-202.**

**Objectives:** To describe the process of economic and institutional changes in health in Argentina in the early twentieth century.

**Methodology:** Analytical and interpretive.

**Results:** This article presents the proposal of Abelardo Yrigoyen Freyre, Minister of Public Health and Labor of Argentina from 1941 and 1943, a period in which this country experienced deep transformations in health care policies and politics. The author outlined the proposal that Yrigoyen Freyre introduced in the province of Santa Fe, whose institutional policies would be used many decades later. Some of these policies are related to: the right to health, the State's responsibility to ensure health care, a focus on integral medicine, and the creation of a unified health care system by the state. The author draws upon the emergence of dissonant voices from the beginning of the 1920s, when an important sector of society evaluated how ineffective the State was in the management of public sector organizations. Those voices challenged the autonomy of the provinces in terms of public health, as well as the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of the fragmentation of health care services. In the 1930s, people began to speak within either health gremial movements, unions and parliament on topics such as planning, integration of preventive practices, and links between labor, welfare, social services and medical care.

To the author, considers that the work done in the province of Santa Fe is an important forerunner of what ultimately would become the founding of the first Peronist government.

**Conclusions:** For the author, the work led by Yrigoyen Freire constitutes an early health policy initiative that would later become part of the Peronist welfare state. His work shows that it was essential and necessary to further the study of the processes of institutional change, which would enhance the explanatory capacity of the history of change through historical and comparative analysis.