


Government and the Health Care System



Companion to *Jonas & Kovner's Health Care Delivery in the United States*, Chapter 2, "Health Policy and Health Reform"

HSC 4630
Understanding U.S. Healthcare

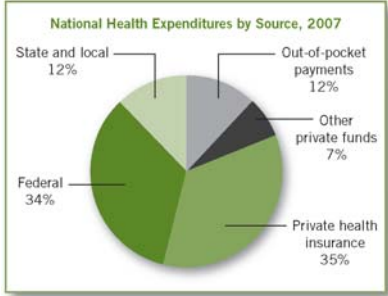
Presentation Objectives

- Review the federal government's role in the U.S. healthcare system
- Describe the roles state and local government in the U.S. healthcare system
- Identify the roles of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government
- Articulate the role of 'fourth branch' in U.S. government
- Relate the Affordable Care Act to the policymaking process described above

Government Involvement in Healthcare

- High compared to other industries in U.S.
- Low compared to other industrialized countries
- Historical role of government
 - Sanitation
 - Communicable disease

Government Pays for Almost Half in U.S.



Percent of funds contributing to national health expenditures, by source, 2007.
Source: Hartman, M., Martin, M., McDonnell, P., Catin, A., & the National Health Expenditure Account Team. (2009). National health spending in 2007: Slower drug spending contributes to lowest rate of overall growth since 1998. *Health Affairs*, 28, 246-261.

Government as Payer

- Federal
 - Medicare
 - Share of Medicaid & SCHIP
- State
 - Medicaid
 - SCHIP
- Local
 - Hospital taxing districts
 - Voter-approved health care district

Government as Regulator

- Federal
 - Testing and approval of pharmaceuticals
 - Access to emergency care (EMTALA)
- State
 - Certificate of Need (CON)
 - Regulates health insurance companies
 - Licenses physicians, nurses, hospitals
- Local
 - Water supplies and waste disposal
 - Food inspections

Government as Provider

- Federal
 - Veterans Health Administration and Tricare
 - Indian Health Service
- State
 - Community health centers (CHC)
 - FQHC
 - The health care “safety net”
 - State hospitals
- Local/County
 - Example: Jackson Health System in Miami-Dade

<http://therealdeal.com/miami/blog/2013/11/06/miami-dade-oks-jackson-health-system-funding/>

Other Government Roles

- Health care research
- General medical education (GME)
- Federal tax subsidy for employer-based insurance

Three Branches of Government

- The Legislative Branch
 - Creates the legislation
 - Oversight of law
- The Executive Branch
 - Regulation of law
 - Administration of program financing
- The Judicial Branch
 - Interprets of the law

Fourth Branch of Government

- Special interests
- Media
- Public

Example: ACA

- Most important legislation of our generation(s): Affordable Care Act
- Legislation
- Regulation
- Judiciary

Conclusion

- Very complex
- Multiple levels
- Many stakeholders
- Government deeply involved in U.S. health care system