

Government and the Health Care System

Companion to Jonas & Kovner's Health Care
Delivery in the United States, Chapter Three: The
Politics of Health Care in the United States

HSC 4630

Understanding U.S. Healthcare



Presentation Objectives

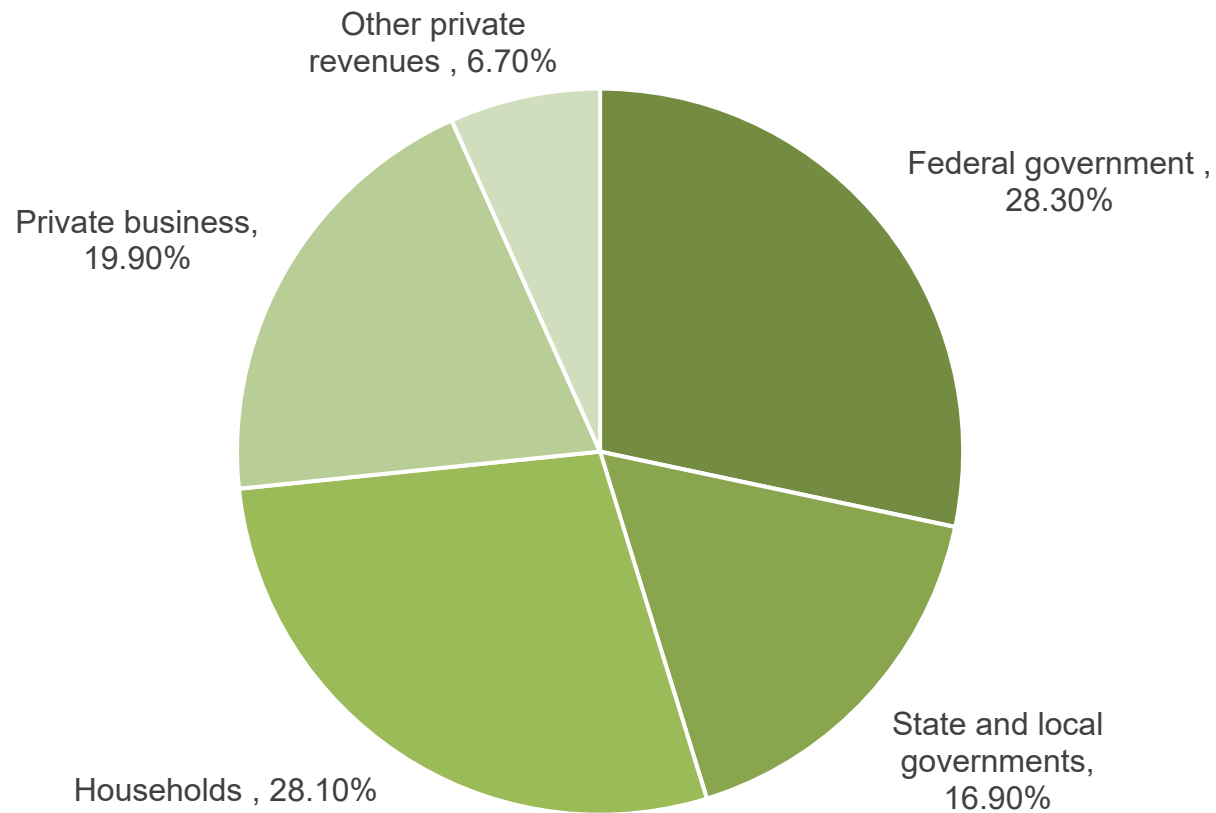
- Review the federal government's role in the U.S. healthcare system
- Describe the roles state and local government in the U.S. healthcare system
- Identify the roles of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government
- Articulate the role of 'fourth branch' in U.S. government
- Relate 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
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Government Pays for Almost Half in U.S.

Source of Funding for Health Care Expenditures, 2016



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
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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

Other Government Roles

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

- Special interests
 - Media
 - Public
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Example: ACA

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

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