Government and the Health Care System

Presentation Objectives

- Distinguish the roles of federal, state, and local government in the U.S. health care 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.

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

Government as Payer

- 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

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