1. Hello and welcome to the lecture on History of Public Health from a Medicine, Law and Policy Perspective. The content for this lecture is taken from “American Decades by Baughman et al., Health Policy Making in the United States by Longest Jr. and the Public Broadcasting Service’s educational media.”

2. The objectives of this lecture are as follows: 1) identify major breakthroughs and issues in medicine and health in American History and 2) Identify major laws and policymaking in American history. This lecture contains some, not all, of the major milestones and issues in medicine, law and policymaking in American history.

3. American Medical Association (AMA) becomes a powerful national force and aggressively pursued medical education reform and the exposure of health quackery. Membership increases from about 8,000 physicians in 1900 to 70,000 in 1910 -- half the physicians in the country.

This period is the beginning of “organized medicine”. Surgery is now common, especially for removing tumors, infected tonsils, appendectomies, and gynecological operations. Doctors are no longer expected to provide free services to all hospital patients.

In addition to hospitals, medical schools, and private practice, MD found employment with life insurance firms, railroads and other industries, the military, and newly developing government health agencies.

Railroads are the leading industry to develop extensive employee medical programs.

Nursing had developed as a profession.

However, America lagged behind Europe in finding value in insuring against the cost of sickness.

4. With regards to laws and policy making, the Biologics Control Act was passed, the first federal law regulating interstate and foreign sale of viruses, serums, toxins and analogous products. In 1906, the Pure Food and Drug Act passed, which defined adulterated and mislabeled foods and drugs and prohibited their transportation in interstate commerce.

5. The growing emphasis on medical examinations in the 1910s revealed that most Americans had some kind of health problem. American hospitals are now modern scientific institutions, valuing antiseptics and cleanliness, and using medications for the relief of pain.

American Association for Labor Legislation (AALL) organizes first national conference on "social insurance".

Progressive reformers argue for health insurance, seems to be gaining support.

Opposition from physicians and other interest groups, and the entry of the US into the war in 1917 undermine reform effort.

6. In 1910, Flexner presented his report on medical education to the AMA Council on Medical Education and Hospitals, which lead to the closing of many inadequate medical schools and the merging of others.

1911, Wisconsin enacted the nation's first workmen's compensation insurance law.

1912: The United States Public Health Service is created by act of Congress.

In 1918: Congress adopts the Chamberlain-Kahn Act for the study and control of venereal disease.

7. Consistent with the general mood of political complacency, there is no strong effort to change health insurance.

Reformers now emphasize the cost of medical care instead of wages lost to sickness - the relatively higher cost of medical care is a new and dramatic development, especially for the middle class.
Growing cultural influence of the medical profession - physicians' incomes are higher and prestige is established. Rural health facilities are clearly inadequate.

General Motors signs a contract with Metropolitan Life to insure 180,000 workers. Penicillin is discovered, but it will be twenty years before it is used to combat infection and disease.

8. **1920:** The Snyder Act, first federal legislation pertaining healthcare for native Americans

**1921:** The Maternity and Infancy Act (i.e., Sheppard-Towner Act) provided grants to states to help them develop the health services for mothers and their children.

9. With the Great Depression, many Americans had to forgo health care and many could not pay for medical bills. The Depression also changed priorities; there was greater emphasis on unemployment insurance and "old age" benefits.

There was a push for health insurance within the Roosevelt Administration, but politics begins to be influenced by internal government conflicts over priorities.

Against the advice of insurance professionals, Blue Cross begins offering private coverage for hospital care in dozens of states. Introduction of group health insurance as an employee benefit and (in the 1940s) exempting the employer/employee premium from federal taxes (1939). This set the stage for the development of the group health insurance market. The tax exempt status of health insurance premiums remains in effect today.

10. In 1935, the Social Security Act was passed, omitting health insurance coverage.

1936 the Walsh-Health Act, authorized federal regulation of industrial safety in companies doing business with the US government.

In 1937, The National Cancer Institute Act, established first categorical institutes within the National Institute of Health, which had been created in 1930 to serve as the administrative home for the research conducted by the US Public Health Service.

The **1938** LaFollette-Bulwinkle Act, provided grants in aid to the states to support investigation and control of STIs.

**1939:** The Reorganization Act, transferred the Public Health Service from the Treasury to the new Federal Security Agency.

11. Penicillin comes into use.

Prepaid group healthcare begins, seen as radical.

During the 2nd World War, wage and price controls are placed on American employers. To compete for workers, companies begin to offer health benefits, giving rise to the employer-based system in place today.

President Roosevelt asks Congress for "economic bill of rights," including right to adequate medical care.

President Truman offers national health program plan, proposing a single system that would include all of American society.

Truman's plan is denounced by the American Medical Association (AMA), and is called a Communist plot by a House subcommittee.

Beginning of 1940 also marked the beginning of a new era in the relationship of the federal government to medical research and development.

12. **1941:** The Nursing Training Act, provided schools of nursing with support to permit them to increase enrollments and improve their physical facilities
1944: The Public Health Services Act, revised and consolidated in one place all existing legislation pertaining to the US Public Health Service

Congress recognized a widespread shortage of hospital facilities; few were built during the great depression and World War II. The 1946 Hospital Survey and Construction Act (Hill-Burton Act) was an Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorized grants to the states for surveying their hospitals and public health centers and for planning construction of additional facilities, and to authorize grants to assist in such construction.

13. At the start of the decade, national health care expenditures are 4.5% of the Gross National Product. Attention turns to Korea and away from health reform; America will have a system of private insurance for those who can afford it and welfare services for the poor. Federal responsibility for the sick poor is firmly established. Many legislative proposals are made for different approaches to hospital insurance, but none succeed. Many more medications are available now to treat a range of diseases including infections, glaucoma, and arthritis. New vaccines become available that prevent dreaded childhood diseases, including polio. The first successful organ transplant is performed.

14. In 1954, the Medical Facilities Survey and Construction Act, amended the Hill-Burton Act to greatly expand the Hill-Burton Program’s scope. The legislation authorized grants for surveys and construction of diagnostic and treatment centers (including hospital outpatient departments), chronic disease hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and nursing homes. In 1955, the Air Pollution Control Act provided for research and technical assistance to air pollution control. The 1956 Dependents Medical Care Act, established the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) for dependents of military personnel. In 1958, Grants-in-Aid to Schools of Public Health, established a program of formula grants to the nation’s schools of PH. The Indian Sanitation Facilities Act of 1959, provided for the surgeon general to “construct, improve, extend, or otherwise provide and maintain, by contract or otherwise, essential sanitation facilities for Indian homes, communities and lands.

15. In the 1950s, the price of hospital care doubled. Now in the early 1960s, those outside the workplace, especially the elderly, have difficulty affording insurance. Over 700 insurance companies selling health insurance. There are concerns about a “doctor shortage,” especially primary care doctors. The number of doctors reporting themselves as full-time specialists grows from 55% in 1960 to 69%. Concern for “doctor shortage” and the need for more "health manpower" leads to federal measures to expand education in the health professions.

Major medical insurance endorses high-cost medicine. President Lyndon Johnson signs Medicare and Medicaid into law. The government was now in the health insurance business big-time and with the creation of these entitlement programs (that are now a major focus in our national reform and deficit debates).

"Compulsory Health Insurance" advocates are no longer optimistic'.

The concept of the Certificate of Need first arose in the field of health care and was passed first in New York in 1964 and then into federal law by the Richard Nixon administration in 1972.
The Bad with the Good: Drugs Cause Side Effects: Although many advances were made in treating illnesses with newly developed drugs, extensive testing by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proved that some of the new drugs were unsafe. The most notorious episode in the 1960s involved thalidomide, a drug prescribed to treat morning sickness (nausea) in pregnant women that caused devastating birth defects in millions of cases worldwide. Because it did not pass the strict safety tests of the FDA, the drug was prohibited in the United States.

16. In 1960, Social Security was Amended (Kerr-Mills Act) to establish a new program to aid states for payments for the medical care for the “medically indigent” aged 65+.

Because of the concern about health professionals shortage, the 1963 Health Professions Educational Assistance Act, provided construction grants for teaching facilities that train MD, Dentists, pharmacists, podiatrists, nurses, or professional public health personnel.

According to the Public Health Service, malnutrition among U.S. poor was just as severe as in developing countries. The Economic Opportunity Act (Anti Poverty Program) was intended to mobilize the human and financial resources of the nation to combat poverty in the US.

In, 1965, more Social Security Amendments, to establish Medicare and Medicaid (insurance for all seniors, not just the medically indigent).

The 1966 Highway Safety Act sought to improve the nation’s system of highways to make them safer for users. That Act was one of a number of initiative by the government in response to increasing number of cars and associated fatalities and injuries on the road following a period when the number of people killed on the road had increased 6-fold and the number of vehicles was up 11-fold since 1925.

The reduction of the rate of death attributable to motor-vehicle crashes in the United States represents the successful public health response to a great technologic advance of the 20th century—the motorization of America.

17. Healthcare costs are escalating rapidly, partially due to unexpectedly high Medicare expenditures, rapid inflation in the economy, expansion of hospital expenses and profits, and changes in medical care including greater use of technology, medications, and conservative approaches to treatment. American medicine is now seen as in crisis.

President Richard Nixon renames prepaid group health care plans as health maintenance organizations (HMOs), with legislation that provides federal endorsement, certification, and assistance. The HMO Act of 1974 (i.e., Managed care) was introduced as the "savior" to address the rising health care costs in the country. It worked for a while, but not so much anymore.

President Nixon’s plan for national health insurance rejected by liberals & labor unions, but his "War on Cancer" centralizes research at the NIH.

The number of women entering the medical profession rises dramatically. In 1970, 9% of medical students are women; by the end of the decade, the proportion exceeds 25%.

World Health Organization declares smallpox eradicated.

18. In 1970, Congress passed Occupational Safety & Health Act. Efforts by the federal government to ensure workplace health and safety were minimal until the passage of OSHA. This law ensures that employers provide employees with an environment free from recognized hazards, such as exposure to toxic chemicals, excessive noise levels, mechanical dangers, heat or cold stress, or unsanitary conditions.
Congress also passed the Public Health Cigarette Smoking Act, which required a stronger health warning on cigarette packages, saying "Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined that Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health". The Act also banned cigarette advertisements on American radio and television.

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**The 1974 Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA)** provided for the regulation of almost all pension and benefits for employees. Benefits included pensions, medical or hospital benefits, disability, and death benefits.

The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 required the EPA to establish national drinking water standards and to aids states and localities in the enforcement of these standards.

In 1974, President Ford withdraws the administration's plan for national health insurance, saying it would make inflation worse.

19. Corporations began to integrate the hospital system (previously a decentralized structure), enter many other healthcare-related businesses, and consolidate control. Overall, there is a shift toward privatization and corporatization of healthcare.

Under President Reagan, Medicare shifts to payment by diagnosis (DRG) instead of by treatment. Private plans quickly follow suit.

Growing complaints by insurance companies that the traditional fee-for-service method of payment to doctors is being exploited. "Capitation" payments to doctors become more common.

20. **In 1980, President Carter signs into law the** Mental Health System Act, for the development and support of comprehensive state mental health system. This law seeks to assure that the chronically mentally ill no longer face the cruel alternative of unnecessary institutionalization or inadequate care in the community. It provided local communities with more flexible federal support for mental health services and placed a new emphasis on the prevention of mental illness.

In 1986, Congress enacted the Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act (EMTALA) to ensure public access to emergency services regardless of ability to pay. The Emergency Act or EMTALA was passed in 1986 within growing concern over the availability of emergency health care services to the poor and uninsured. The statute was designed principally to address the problem of "patient dumping". Law requires treatment of patients regardless of citizenship, legal status or ability to pay.

21. Health care costs rise at double the rate of inflation.

Expansion of managed care helps to moderate increases in health care costs. However, as mentioned previously, that was short-lived.

Federal health care reform legislation fails again to pass in the U.S. Congress.

By the end of the decade there are 44 million Americans, 16 % of the nation, with no health insurance at all.

Human Genome Project to identify all of the more than 100,000 genes in human DNA gets underway.

By June 1990, 139,765 people in the United States have HIV/AIDS, with a 60 percent mortality rate.

22. In 1990, the American with Disabilities Act, provided a broad range of protections for the disabled, in effect combining protections contained in the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1988. The central goal of the legislation was independence for the disabled, in effect to assist them in being self-supporting and able to lead independent lives.
The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act led to laws protecting those with HIV/AIDS from discrimination and established increased federal funding for AIDS research and treatment. The act was named for Ryan White (1971-1990) a teenage boy who died of AIDS after contracting the virus through treatment for hemophilia. His and his family's experience facing stigmatization brought national attention to the discrimination and fear surrounding the illness. At the time this act was established, there were 150,000 reported AIDS cases in the U.S.

The Balance Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 signed into law by President Clinton; contain the most significant changes in Medicare since inception. It required a 5-yr reduction of $115 billion in Medicare & $13 billion in Medicaid and established State Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). During that era, President Clinton also balanced the federal budget with a surplus.

23. Health care costs are on the rise again.
Changing demographics of the workplace lead many to believe the employer-based system of insurance can't last. Medicare is viewed by some as unsustainable under the present structure and must be "rescued". Human Genome Project to identify all of the more than 100,000 genes in human DNA is expected to be completed a full two years ahead of schedule, in 2003. Direct-to-consumer advertising for pharmaceuticals and medical devices is on the rise. National health reform on US agenda again.

24. In 2001, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act was passed for recovery from and response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States. The 2002 Homeland Security Act was passed in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks and subsequent mailings of anthrax spores. The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), formed through the Homeland Security Act, is a Cabinet department composed of several different divisions that work to protect the United States from terrorists and natural disasters.

Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003, created a new drug benefit as Part D of Medicare. Critics of the program mention that the Medicare Part D is a costly endeavor for patients, states, and consequently taxpayers.

The 2010 Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act or the Affordable Care Act (ACA), represents the most significant government expansion and regulatory overhaul of the country's healthcare system since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965. The ACA aims to increase the quality, affordability, and rate of health insurance coverage for Americans, and reduce the costs of health care for individuals and the government. It provides a number of mechanisms—including mandates, subsidies, and insurance exchanges—to increase insurance coverage and affordability.

25. This brings us to an end to our lecture. Thank you for listening. Please take a look at the following questions. These questions can help you prepare for the exam.