

Health Policy Shaping System Change & Access to Care

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Learning Outcomes

1. Identify drivers of health policy as it relates to access to health care.
2. Describe the significance of the ACA specific to access to care and health outcomes.
3. Describe new models of care implemented since the passage of the ACA.
4. Recognize the role of the RNCM as it relates to health policy, advocacy and role development.

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Understanding Health Reform

Key words: Health Reform, Affordable Care Act, American Rescue Plan, Accountable Care Organization (ACO), Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH), National Health Insurance, Socialized Medicine, Universal Health care

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U.S. Spending & Health Care

U.S. compared to other industrialized countries:

- Spends the most with the poorest outcomes
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development 2019)
- Most at Risk:
 - Low-income individuals
 - People of color
 - Residents of rural areas



Gap growing since before the Affordable Care Act and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic

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In the U.S. two groups experience health problems more intensely and frequently:

- People with intense health care needs who use a lot of services
 - Multiple chronic conditions
 - Functional limitations
 - Behavioral health concerns
 - Complicated by social needs
- Vulnerable Populations
 - Poor access to health care
 - Receive poor quality care
 - Experience poor care outcomes
 - Often resulting from health inequities

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Access to Health Care

Needed:

- Promoting and maintaining health
- Preventing and managing disease
- Reducing unnecessary disability and premature death

Includes:

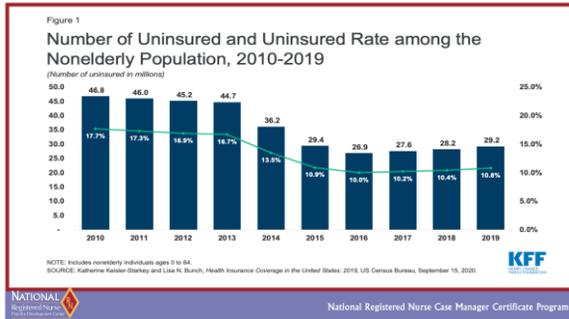
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Availability of health care providers and services

Lack of Health Insurance directly linked to poor health outcomes and economic hardship.

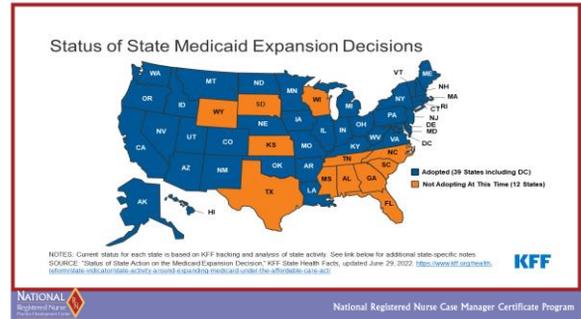


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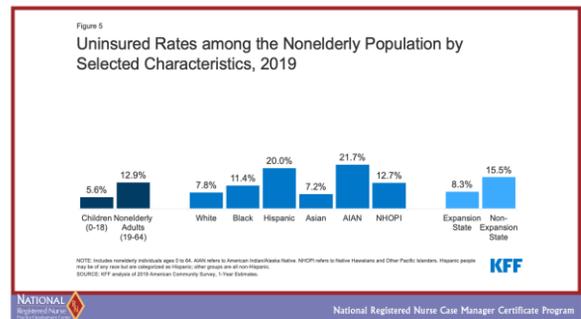


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Access to Health Insurance Matters (KFF 2020)

- Most unemployed people have at least one worker in the family more likely to experience health care disparities and low income
- 3 in 10 adults went without needed health care due to cost and were more likely to accumulate medical debt
- 85% of uninsured are non-elderly adults

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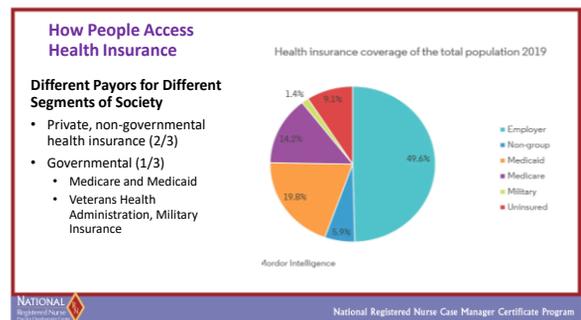
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1/3 of Americans are concerned about their ability to pay for health care in the coming year

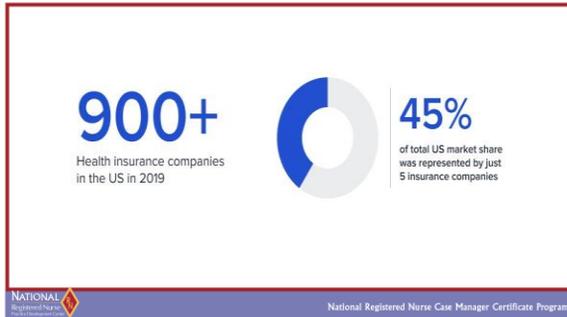
The pandemic has exacerbated these challenges

(Rambur, B. & Pulcini, J. (Jan 2022) – Understanding the language of health reform. AJN, 122:1, 48-53.)

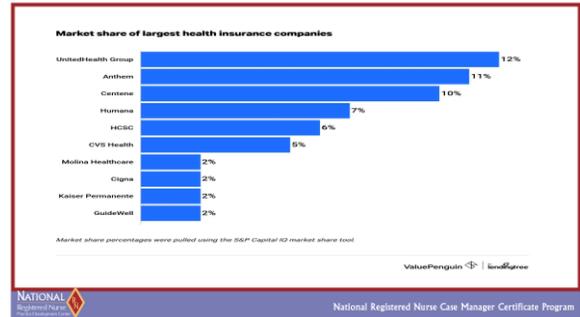
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Government Involvement in Healthcare

American Satisfaction with Governmental Insurance is High

- 75-78% Satisfaction with:
 - Medicare
 - Medicaid
 - VA Health Care

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Universal Health Coverage

"All people having access to the health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. It includes the full range of essential health services from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care." – The World Health Organization

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The United States

- Other wealthy nations achieve this aim to varying degrees (Ex: The Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany)
- Use:
 - More stringent price controls
 - Negotiations
 - Capitated (fixed) salaries for providers
 - Global budgets that support affordability
- Medical debt and bankruptcy due to health care costs a uniquely American phenomenon

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Differentiating Between National Health Insurance and Socialized Medicine

- National health insurance paid for by taxes termed social insurance
- Often confused with socialized medicine which is different
 - Government owns the building where care is provided (i.e., hospitals, primary care clinics, nursing homes) and employs staff who provide the care
 - Ex: Great Britain's National Health Service
- In the U.S., the Veterans Health Administration represents a socialized approach
 - Financed by taxes
 - Care is delivered by governmental employees in government owned facilities

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- Canadian system is an example of Universal Health System
 - Financed through taxes
 - Care delivered mostly in nonprofit hospitals rather than government owned facilities
 - Providers are not government employees
- Represents national health insurance with a single-payer approach
 - Basic care is financed by the government through taxes
 - Options for supplemental insurance coverage are paid for by citizens who elect to purchase it
- In the U.S., Medicare offers a single payer form of national health insurance for selected populations and conditions
 - Access to health insurance is guaranteed to those eligible
 - Financed through taxes and payments by those covered by Medicare



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U.S. History of Efforts to Achieve Universal Health Insurance

- 1935 President Roosevelt's initial plan for Social Security included universal coverage through national health insurance
- 1948 President Truman unsuccessfully attempted to enact World War II increased the number of Americans with employer-based health insurance
- 1960s The population most likely to be living in poverty was the elderly
- 1965 President Johnson's Great Society Vision included amendments to the Social Security Act to provide national health insurance for those over 65 (Medicare), poor or disabled individuals without access to health insurance (Medicaid)



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- Early 1970s President Nixon's comprehensive health insurance plan to provide national health insurance expected to pass into law but was stopped by the Watergate scandal.
- 1993 President Clinton unsuccessfully attempted to reform health care through managed competition
- 2010 President Obama included national health insurance with a public option in early drafts of the Affordable Care Act removed by the final bill before adoption by Congress



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Affordable Care Act

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Health Care Law (2010)



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The ACA Law has 3 Primary Goals:

- 1) Make affordable health insurance available to more people
 - Provides consumer subsidies that lower costs for households with incomes between 100% and 400% of the federal poverty level
- 2) Expand the Medicaid Program
 - Cover all adults below 138% of the FPL
- 3) Support innovative medical care delivery
 - Reduce health care costs



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ACO Models at CMS

<https://innovation.cms.gov/innovation-models/aco>

Medicare Shared Savings Program

- Helps Medicare fee-for-service providers become an ACO

ACO Investment Model

- For Medicare Shared Savings ACOs to test pre-paid savings in rural and underserved populations

Advance Payment ACO Model

- Supplementary incentive program for selected participants in the Shared Savings Program

Next Generation ACO Model

- For ACOs experienced in managing care for populations of patients

Pioneer ACO Model

- Program designed for early adopters of coordinated care. Only for health care organizations and providers already in this program experienced in coordinating care across care settings.

Population Specific ACO Programs

- Comprehensive ESRD Care Initiative –For beneficiaries receiving dialysis
- Vermont All-Payer ACO Model – Effort to transform healthcare for Vermont’s population

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Evaluating ACO Success

Quality Measure Domains:

- Patient Experience
- Care Coordination
- Preventive Health
- At Risk Populations

The higher the quality-of-care providers deliver, the more shared savings ACOs may earn

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Number of ACOs Increasing

Since the passage of the ACA:

- > 1,000 ACOs covering almost 33 million patients across the country
- Value based reimbursement expected to increase participation

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Patient Centered Medical Home

<https://www.ahrq.gov/ncepr/tools/pcmh/defining/index.html>

AHRQ defines medical home

.....“not simply as a place but as a model of the organization of primary care that delivers the core functions of primary health care”

- Comprehensive Care
- Patient Centered
- Coordinated Care
- Accessible Services
- Quality and Safety

Patients have access to the right care, at the right time, in the right place

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National Commission of Quality Assurance (NCQA)

- Provides PCMH Recognition (accreditation/certification)
 - More than 13,000 practices (with more than 67,000 clinicians) are recognized by NCQA (retrieved July 2022)
- A growing body of scientific evidence shows that PCMHs are saving money by:
 - reducing hospital and emergency department visits
 - mitigating health disparities
 - improving patient outcomes

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ACOs and PCMHs Interface with the Triple Aim

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Health Reform Policy and RNCM Practice

Informed Practice = More Effective Role Development



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Dept of Health and Human Services

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/hhs-agencies-and-offices/index.html>

- National Institutes of Health
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Indian Health Service
 - Food and Drug Administration
 - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
 - Health Resources and Services Administration
 - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
 - Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health¹¹
 - Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
 - Office of Global Affairs
 - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
 - Administration for Children and Families
 - Administration for Community Living
- Department of Veterans Affairs/Veterans Health Administration
- <https://www.va.gov/>



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On Going Debates: Universal Coverage Through a Public Option or Medicare

It Depends:

- Medicare Part X
 - Not "Medicare for All" or "Medicare for More"
 - Establishes a new Medicare-like program single payer option
- Lowering Medicare eligibility to age 60
- Expanding benefits to include dental, hearing and vision services
- Some State-based public option versions have already received legislative approval:
 - Ex: Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, Washington



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New Legislation: The American Rescue Plan Act COVID Relief and Access to Health Insurance

- Passed March 2021 to provide COVID relief and access to health insurance
- Expands on limitations of the ACA
- Provided provisions to address health care system challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic
 - COBRA coverage for those who lost their jobs or had reduced hours resulting in loss of insurance
 - Expanded Medicaid and CHIP
 - Subsidies to existing Medicaid enrollees in states that had not previously expanded Medicaid
 - Extended post-partum Medicaid coverage for 12 months
 - Additional Medicaid support for home and community-based services



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The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (August)

- Lowers energy costs, increases cleaner production, and reduces carbon emission by 40% by 2030
- Allows Medicare to negotiate drug prices and caps out of pocket costs to \$2000
- Lowers ACA health care premiums for millions of Americans
- Closes tax loopholes, enforces the tax code and raises taxes to 15% for big corporations and ultra wealthy



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PACT Act signed into Law August 9, 2022

- Expands health care benefits for veterans who developed illnesses because of their exposure to toxic substances from burn pits on U.S. military bases during their service in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Largest expansion of health care benefits for veterans exposed to toxins in > 30 years
- Expected to extend eligibility for medical care to 3.5 million veterans potentially impacted by toxic exposure
- Removes the burden on certain veterans and their families to prove service connection if diagnosed with one of 23 specific conditions including 11 respiratory-related conditions, several forms of cancer and brain cancer
- Have You Ever Served? (American Academy of Nursing)
 - <https://www.haveyoueverserved.com/>



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Well Informed RNCMs are Better Patient Advocates

- Able to define key terms and relevant history related to the current health system and recognize the relationship between the many moving parts of the U.S. health care systems and patient access to care
- Provide nonpartisan education to our colleagues and patients to correct misinformation and disinformation
- Critically evaluate and advocate for those health policies that have the potential to impact health outcomes more positively for patients
- Better positioned to participate in professional activities to more effectively accomplish system changes put forth by legislation



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Next Steps

- Watch the videos that accompany this lecture
- Review the posted Resources. Download any you would like to keep.
- Complete the Practice Development Activity
- Take the Test Your Knowledge Self-Assessment Quiz
- When you're ready move onto the next topic



Questions? Let me know:

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