Medicaid Funding and Policies

Is There a Medicaid Crisis? A Financial Diagnosis for State and Local Government

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Main Points

- Medicaid Remains a Workhorse has Evolved into a Very Different Program
- States & Health Reform leading the charge, balancing public/private
- Early lessons learned in state-based health reform initiatives
- Hard Questions

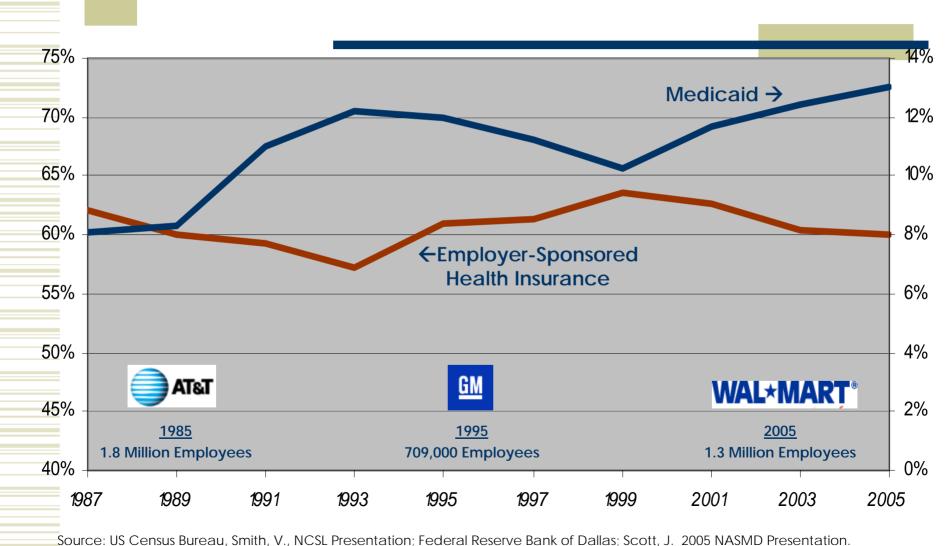
Medicaid Remains the "Utility Man" ...

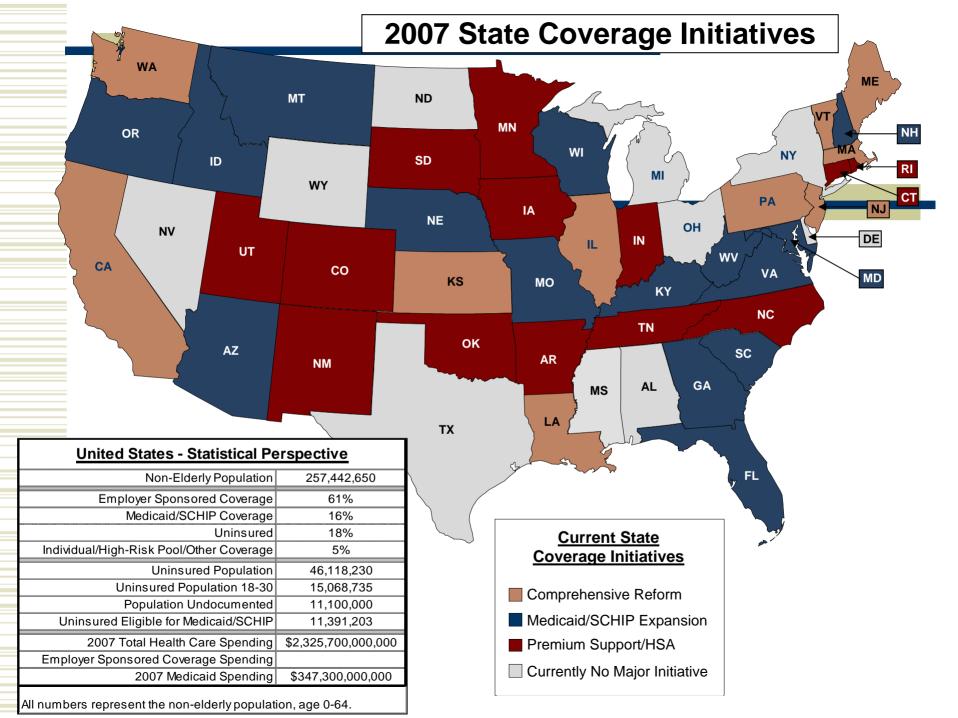
- Mental health: over half of publicly financed care
- Public health and schools
- Hospitals that serve the safety net: special Medicaid "DSH" payments \$16 billion in 2007
- Community Health Centers: Medicaid averages 40% of CHC revenues
- 7 million low-income elderly and disabled are "dual eligibles"— on both Medicaid and Medicare
 - "Duals" account for 40% of Medicaid spending

....But Medicaid Has Fundamentally Changed

- Coverage @ much higher income levels
- Entitlement has changed with Waivers Florida
- Match for Preventive/Wellness/Enhanced Benefits
- Government subsidized commercial insurance
- SCHIP

Is this a Business Cycle or is the "Defined Contribution" Having an Impact?





Early Lessons Learned

- Do We Nearly Have Universal Access, Only Delivered in a Very Inefficient Way Given the Roles of EMTALA, FQHC, Charity Hospitals?
- Is This a Crisis or Several Sub-Crises?
- Voluntary (e.g. Maine) Helps but Individual and Business Components Help Affordable Rates and Level Playing Field
- Concept to Implementation Issues

My Case for Coverage Issues Being Less of a Partisan Issue than in Past

- Government routinely subsidizes commercial insurance
- Individual and Business mandate are a unique blend of "big government" and "personal responsibility"
- Bipartisan blend leading charge from Executive branches
- Broad recognition that uninsured shift costs

Hard Questions

- Ultimate Juggling-Assessment, NPRM, Payment Methodology, Cook Pressures, Community Benefit, Uninsured Plan
- The Stomach to Tolerate Set-Backs and Tweaks?
- Will the Beltway Trump this with a Big Plan? [Be nice to our guests – Wisconsin]
- Winner Take All Mentality Single Payor or Private?
- Can we Cover More and Control Costs?
- Revenue?