



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH POLICY ANALYSIS

PUBH 290.18
FALL SEMESTER, 2003
2 credits

Wednesdays, 4:10-6:00 p.m.
Ross 104

Professors:

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Office hours:

Professor Markus: Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and by appointment
Professor Sonosky: By appointment only

Course description:

This course will provide instruction in maternal and child health policy in the U.S., with a particular emphasis on policies related to the organization, financing, delivery and quality oversight of personal health services for mothers and children. The course will also provide instruction on the process of public policy development at the national, state and local level in the area of maternal and child health and will instruct students in the methods of policy analysis, including problem identification, the development of policy overview and synthesis documents, and the preparation of policy options papers.

Prerequisites:

PubH 266: Introduction to Maternal and Child Health

Course learning objectives/Competencies:

Students should achieve: (1) an understanding of the elements of maternal and child health services policy, including the financing and organization of care for pregnant women, infants, children and children with special health needs; (2) an understanding of the public policy process in the U.S., including allocation of responsibility among levels of government and between the public and private sectors; (3) an understanding of basic aspects of policy analysis methods, including problem identification, policy synthesis, preparation of policy background and overview documents, and development of policy options and recommendations; and (4) an understanding of sources of information on maternal and child health policy in the U.S. related to the delivery and financing of health care.

Methods of evaluation:

Grading: 90%, policy analysis exercises, including 1 problem identification exercise (5%), 2 written policy analysis exercises, i.e., 1 background memorandum (15%) and 1 options memorandum (25%), 1 in-class oral presentation accompanied by slides (5%), and a final exam (40%); 10%, oral class participation.

Late papers: Students must meet the due dates for all assignments. If they are not able to meet these deadlines, they must receive an extension from one of the professors (in person, by phone, or by e-mail). If students are not able to attend class the day a paper is due, it may be submitted electronically or by fax. Students should call one of the professors to confirm receipt. Papers that are overdue for which extensions are not granted will be downgraded (one grade per day over due). Final exams may not be handed in late unless special arrangements are made.

Class attendance: The nature of this course and the written assignments associated with it make class attendance critical. Both basic skills and material content will be presented in class that will be the basis for the written and oral assignments.

Code of academic integrity:

This course is governed by the GW Code of Academic Integrity. Students are strongly encouraged to read the GW Code of Academic Integrity regarding plagiarism and cheating. The code is available on-line at <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>.

Course text:

Selected articles from *The Future of Children*, Volume 13, Number 1, Spring 2003

Reading Materials containing original government documents and other web-site-accessible materials, supplemented by specific policy-related reports and articles on various topics in maternal and child health service delivery.

It is also recommended that students take relevant classes offered by Himmelfarb Library to improve data collection skills (e.g., classes on using Medline and using the Internet for health information resources).

SYLLABUS

I. INTRODUCTION TO U.S. HEALTH CARE POLICY MAKING

1. September 3:

Course Overview and Introductory Lecture: The U.S. Health System and the Evolution of Maternal and Child Health Policy *(Professor Sonosky; in-class lecture)*

Learning objective(s):

To explain course structure and provide a basic overview of the U.S. health system and the evolution of maternal and child health policy in the U.S., 1900-present.

Required reading(s):

- Handout: *An Overview of the U.S. Health Care System*
- Handout: *Public Policy Timeline: Key Federal Laws Affecting Health Care for Mothers and Children*
- Mann, C. et al. "Historical Overview of Children's Health Care Coverage," *Future of Children*, Spring 2003, p. 31-40
- Rosenbaum, S., et al. *Health Policy and Early Child Development: An Overview*, The Commonwealth Fund, July 2001, p.1-11
- Holahan, J., and Pohl, M.B. "Changes in Insurance Coverage: 1994-2000 and Beyond," *Health Affairs*, Web Exclusive, April 3, 2002, <http://www.healthaffairs.org/WebExclusives/2103Holahan.pdf>
- Alliance for Health Reform. *Health Care Cost and Health Coverage*, 2002, http://www.allhealth.org/pub/pdf/Costs-Coverage_Aug2002.pdf

2. September 10:

Health Care Policy Making in the U.S. *(Professor Sonosky; in-class lecture)*

Learning objective(s):

To understand the process of public policy development at both federal and state government levels.

Required reading(s):

- Bovbjerg, R., Wiener, J., and Housman, M. "State and Federal Roles in Health Care: Rationales for Allocating Responsibilities," *Federalism and Health Policy*, edited by Holahan, J., Weil, A., and Wiener, J., Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press, 2003

- Holahan, J., Weil, A., and Wiener, J. “Which Way for Federalism and Health Policy?,” *Health Affairs*, Web Exclusive July 16, 2003, www.healthaffairs.org/WebExclusives/Holahan_Web_Excl_071603.htm
- Children’s Defense Fund, *Congressional Workbook-Basic Process and Issue Primer*, 1999-2000
- Handout: *Congressional Health Committees*

**3. September 17:
Approaches to Policy Analysis
(Professor Markus; in-class lecture, plus in-class group exercise on policy problem identification)**

Learning objective(s):

To understand the essential elements of policy analysis, including problem identification, background analysis, identification of options, and analysis of options.

Required Reading(s):

- Bardach, E. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis—The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*, 2000, Part 1, p. 1-46

ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE SEPTEMBER 24:

Problem identification exercise:

One page memorandum to a state official identifying the policy problem in assigned slides to be distributed in class.

II. HEALTH CARE FINANCING

**4. September 24:
Private Health Insurance Coverage for Children and Women
(Professor Markus; in-class lecture)**

Learning objective(s):

To understand the key issues related to private health insurance coverage among children and women, including the employer-sponsored health insurance system, eligibility for coverage, coverage limitations and exclusions, and the coverage decision-making process.

Required reading(s):

- Holahan, J. et al. “Which Children Are Still Uninsured and Why,” *Future of Children*, Spring 2003, p. 55-80

- Claxton, G. *How Private Insurance Works: A Primer*, Kaiser Family Foundation, April 2002
- “Children’s Health—Why Health Insurance Matters,” *Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured Fact Sheet*, May 31, 2002
- “Women’s Health Insurance Coverage,” *Kaiser Family Foundation Fact Sheet*, July 2001
- Kaiser Family Foundation and Health Research Educational Trust. *Employer Health Benefits: 2002 Summary of Benefits*, <http://www.kff.org/content/2002/20020905a/>
- Finkelstein, B., et al. "Insurance Coverage, Physician Recommendations, and Access to Emerging Treatments: Growth Hormone Therapy for Childhood Short Stature," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, March 4, 1998, p. 663-668

Suggested Reading(s):

- Curtis, R., and Neuschler, E. Premium Assistance, *Future of Children*, Spring 2003, p. 214-223
- “Underinsured in America: Is Health Coverage Adequate,” *Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured Fact Sheet*, July 2002, www.kff.org/content/2002/4060/4060.pdf.
- “COBRA Coverage for Low-Income Unemployed Workers,” *Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured Fact Sheet*, October 2001, www.kff.org/content/2001/4021/4021.pdf
- Lambrew, J. *Diagnosing Disparities in Health Insurance for Women: A Prescription for Change*, Commonwealth Fund, August 2001, www.cmwf.org/programs/insurance/lambrew_women_493.pdf

**5. October 1:
Medicaid and SCHIP
(Professor Sonosky; in-class lecture)**

Guest Lecturer:

Debbie Chang, National Academy for State Health Policy

Learning objective(s):

To understand the Medicaid and SCHIP programs and their coverage of women, children, and families.

Required reading(s):

- Mann, C., et al. “Historical Overview of Children’s Health Coverage,” *Future of Children*, Spring 2003, p. 40-50
- Rosenbaum, S., et al. *Room to Grow: Promoting Child Development Through Medicaid and CHIP*, Commonwealth Fund, July 2001, Appendices A and E, p. 1-9
- Rosenbaum, S., et al. "The Children's Hour: The State Children's Health Insurance Program," *Health Affairs*, January/February 1998

- “Health Care Coverage for Low-Income Children,” *Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured Fact Sheet*, May 31, 2002
- “Medicaid at a Glance,” *Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured Fact Sheet*, February 2003
- “Enrolling Uninsured Low-Income Children in Medicaid and CHIP,” *Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured Fact Sheet*, May 31, 2002
- “Health Insurance Coverage of Low-Income Women,” *Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured Fact Sheet*, February 6, 2001
- “Medicaid’s Role for Women,” *Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured Fact Sheet*, November 2000

Suggested reading(s):

- Maloy, K., et al. *Can Medicaid Work for Low-Income Working Families*, Kaiser Family Foundation, April 2002, <http://www.kff.org/content/2002/4032/4032.pdf>
- Rosenbaum, S. “Medicaid” (Health Policy Report), *New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 346, February 21, 2002, p. 635-640, <http://www.gwhealthpolicy.org/downloads/NEJM Medicaid022002.pdf>
- Riley, T., et al. “How Public Insurance Programs for Children Work,” *Future of Children*, Spring 2003, p, 171-192
- Ku, L. and Ross, D.C. *Staying Covered: The Importance of Retaining Health Insurance for Low-Income Families*, The Commonwealth Fund, December 2002, http://www.cmwf.org/programs/insurance/ku_stayingcovered_586.pdf

ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE OCTOBER 8:

Written policy analysis exercise:

Memorandum to state official synthesizing information on and providing an explanation of public and private insurance coverage of women and children.

III. CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

6. October 8:

**Federal Programs for Children with Special Health Care Needs
(Professor Sonosky; in-class lecture)**

Guest lecturer:

Lynda Honberg, Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Division of Special Health Care Needs, US DHHS

Learning objective(s):

To understand special needs programs, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, programs operated by state maternal and child health agencies, and mental health and developmental disabilities agencies.

Required reading(s):

- McPherson, M., et al., "A New Definition of Children with Special Health Care Needs," *Pediatrics*, Vol. 102, No. 1, July 1998, p. 137-140
- Szilagyi, P. "Care of Children with Special Health Care Needs," *Future of Children*, Spring 2003, p. 137-152
- Newacheck, P., et al., "Access to Health Care for Children with Special Health Care Needs," *Pediatrics*, Vol. 105, No. 4, April 2000, p. 760-766
- Materials on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Title V Children with Special Health Care Needs programs

Suggested reading(s):

- General Accounting Office, *Medicaid and Special Education: Coordination of Services for Children with Disabilities is Evolving*, December 1999, <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/useftp.cgi?IPAddress=162.140.64.21&filename=he00020.pdf&directory=/diskb/wais/data/gao>

Assignment #3 due October 22:

In-class oral group presentation accompanied by slides:

In-class oral group presentation to a legislative "committee" addressing an assigned policy issue. Up to 5 slides are to be used as the basis of the presentation. Each member of group is expected to present a part of the testimony.

7. October 15:**In-class Preparation of Oral Group Presentation**

(Professors Markus and Sonosky available for questions; in-class preparation of oral group presentation)

Guest Lecturer(s):

Alan Schlobohm, Kaiser Family Foundation

Learning objective(s):

To learn how to provide clear, concise oral and graphic presentations of policy analyses, and to gain familiarity with standard resources for background on health policy issues.

**8. October 22:
In-class Oral Group Presentation Accompanied by Slides
(Professors Markus and Sonosky; in-class oral group presentations)**

Learning objective(s):

To be able to give clear, concise oral and graphic presentations of policy analyses, and to understand key legislative processes in maternal and child health policy.

IV. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF MCH SERVICES

**9. October 29:
Access to Health Care: Direct Provision of Health Services
(Professor Markus; in-class lecture)**

Guest lecturer(s):

Jameta Barlow, Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Dan Hawkins, National Association of Community Health Centers

Learning objective(s):

To acquire an overview of how the government becomes directly involved in the provision of health services to women and children, using the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant and the Community Health Centers programs as examples.

Required reading(s):

- Institute of Medicine, *America's Health Care Safety Net*, National Academy Press, 2000, p. 47-70
- Rosenbaum, S., et al. *Using the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant to Support Child Development Services*, Commonwealth Fund, January 2002
- Rosenbaum, S., et al. *Child Development Programs in Community Health Centers*, Commonwealth Fund, January 2002
- "The Uninsured and Their Access to Health Care," *Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured Fact Sheet*, February 12, 2003

Suggested reading(s):

- Review Overview and Materials from the National Association of Community Health Centers (www.nachc.com) and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (www.amchp.org)

**10. November 5:
Managed Care
(Professor Sonosky; in-class lecture)**

Learning objective(s):

To gain a basic understanding of the managed care system in the U.S., including the similarities and differences in publicly-and privately-sponsored managed care, but with a special emphasis on Medicaid managed care. To gain a better understanding of how state officials develop policy options in making decisions about the state's health care delivery system.

Required reading(s):

- Center for Health Services Research and Policy, *Training Module on Pediatric Managed Care*, September 2002, www.gwhealthpolicy.org/pedsmod/pages/index.html
- Rosenbaum, S. "Approaches to Assuring Quality Health Care through State Contracts with Managed Care Plans," *Access to Health Care: Promises and Prospects for Low-Income Americans* (Ed. Lillie-Blanton, et al.), Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, 1999, p. 223-250
- General Accounting Office. *Medicaid Managed Care: Challenges in Implementing Safeguards for Children with Special Needs*, March 2000, p.5-21
- "Medicaid and Managed Care," *Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured Fact Sheet*, December 14, 2001

ASSIGNMENT #4 DUE NOVEMBER 21ST:

Written policy analysis exercise:

Memorandum to state official identifying and analyzing a minimum of 3 options on an assigned policy issue.

**11. November 12:
Maternal and Child Health and the Intersection of Health Care and
Public Health: Quality, Surveillance, and Access
(Professor Markus; in-class lecture)**

Learning objective(s):

To understand how broad population health and health quality issues intersect with the modern health care system in the areas of control of communicable disease and protection of children against health risks. To understand what policy options are available to state agencies (e.g., Medicaid, Title V, Public Health) to improve quality and surveillance activities.

Required reading(s):

- Johnson, K., and Little, G. “State Health Agencies and Quality Improvement in Perinatal Care,” *Pediatrics*, Vol. 103, No. 1, January 1999, p. 233
- Rosenbaum, S., and Kamoie, B. “Managed Care and Public Health: Conflict and Collaboration” *The Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics*, Symposium: Public Health Law and Ethics, Vol. 302, Summer 2002, p. 191-200
- Schuster, M., et al., “The Quality of Health Care in the United States. A Review of Articles Since 1987” Appendix A in *Crossing the Quality Chasm-A New Health System for the 21st Century*, Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 2003, p. 243-260

Suggested Reading(s):

- Leatherman, S., and McCarthy, D. *Quality of Health Care in the United States: A Chartbook*, The Commonwealth Fund, April 2002, www.cmwf.org/programs/quality/leatherman_chbk_520.pdf
- Institute of Medicine, *The Future of Public Health*, National Academy Press, 1988, p. 1-18
- Institute of Medicine, *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*, National Academy Press, 1996, p.1-5

12. November 19:

Health Disparities, Discrimination and Cultural Competency *(Professors Markus and Sonosky; in-class lecture)*

Learning objective(s):

To understand the issue of health disparities, the law and policy of anti-discrimination, and government efforts to end discrimination and accommodate the health care system to culturally diverse needs.

Required reading(s):

- Rosenbaum, S., Markus, A., and Darnell, J., “U.S. Civil Rights Policy and Access to Health Care,” *Medical Care Research and Review*, Vol. 57, Supplement 1, 2000, p. 236-259
- Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, *Key Facts: Race, Ethnicity & Medical Care*, June 2003
- Lessard, G., and Ku, L. “Gaps In Coverage for Children in Immigrant Families,” *Future of Children*, Spring 2003, p. 101-116
- Flores, G., et al., “The Health of Latino Children—Urgent Priorities, Unanswered Questions, and a Research Agenda,” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 288, No. 1, July 3, 2002, p. 82-90
- Alexander, G., et al., “Racial Differences in Prenatal Care Use in the United States: Are Disparities Decreasing?,” *American Journal of Public Health*, December 2002, Vol. 92, No. 12, p. 1970-1975

- Office for Civil Rights, *Policy Guidance on the Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination as it Affects Persons with Limited English Proficiency*, August 2000, p.1-21

Suggested reading(s):

- Schulman et al., "The Effect of Race and Sex on Physicians' Recommendations for Cardiac Catheterization," *New England Journal of Medicine*, February 25, 1999, 340(8), p.618-626
- Institute of Medicine, *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, March 20, 2002, <http://www.nap.edu/books/030908265X/html/>
- "Highlights for Women of Color," *Women's Health Data Book*, Kaiser Family Foundation and Jacobs Institute of Women's Health, <http://www.kff.org/content/2001/6004/Jacobswofc2.pdf>
- Youdelman, M., and Perkins, J., *Providing Language Interpretation Services in Health Care Settings: Examples from the Field*, Commonwealth Fund, May 2002, http://www.cmwf.org/programs/minority/youdelman_languageinterp_541.pdf

NOTE: Class scheduled for November 26 is cancelled and moved to December 3.

V. FEDERAL AND STATE ACTION IN MCH POLICY AND COURSE CONCLUSIONS

**13. December 3:
Federal and State Policy Issues in Maternal and Child Health:
The 2004 Elections
(Professor Sonosky; in-class roundtable of experts)**

Guest lecturers:

Gregg Haifley, Children's Defense Fund
Amy Hall, House Commerce Committee, Minority staff
Cindy Mann, Georgetown University

Learning objective(s):

To understand emerging issues in federal maternal and child health policy with a focus on health reform proposals in the 2004 presidential campaigns.

Required reading(s):

- Rosenbaum, S., and Sonosky, C. "Medicaid Reforms and SCHIP: Health Care Coverage and the Changing Policy Environment," *Who Speaks for America's Children: The Role of Child*

Advocates in Public Policy (Ed. DeVita and Mosher-Williams), Urban Institute Press, 2001, p. 81-104

- Weil, A., Holahan, J., and Wiener, J. “Improving the Federal System of Health Care Coverage,” *Federalism and Health Policy*, edited by Holahan, J., Weil, A., and Wiener, J., Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press, 2003, pgs. 339-418.
- Davis, K. and Schoen, C. “Creating Consensus on Coverage Choices,” *Health Affairs*, Web Exclusive April 23, 2003, www.healthaffairs.org/WebExclusives/Davis_Web_Excl_042303.htm

Suggested reading(s):

- Rosenbaum, S., and Johnson, K., *Making Medicaid and SCHIP Work for Families and Children*, Carnegie Corporation of New York, 2001

FINAL EXAM DUE DECEMBER 17:

Final exam:

Six-page memorandum to state official on an assigned policy problem facing the state. The memorandum will require the student to combine the methods of policy analysis learned in class and in the written assignments, including problem identification, background synthesis, policy option development, and policy recommendation.

14. December 10:

Summary and Review for Final Exam

(Professors Markus and Sonosky; in-class discussion)

