

Policymaking for Health Care, the Environment, and Energy

17



Video: The Big Picture



http://media.pearsoncmg.com/ph/hss/SSA_SHARED_MEDIA_1/polisci/presidency/Edwards_Ch17_Policymaking_for_Health_Care_Seg1_v2.html

Learning Objectives

17.1

Outline the problems of health care in America and the role of government in health care

17.2

Analyze the conflicts between economic growth and environmental protection, and identify the major national environmental protection policies

Learning Objectives

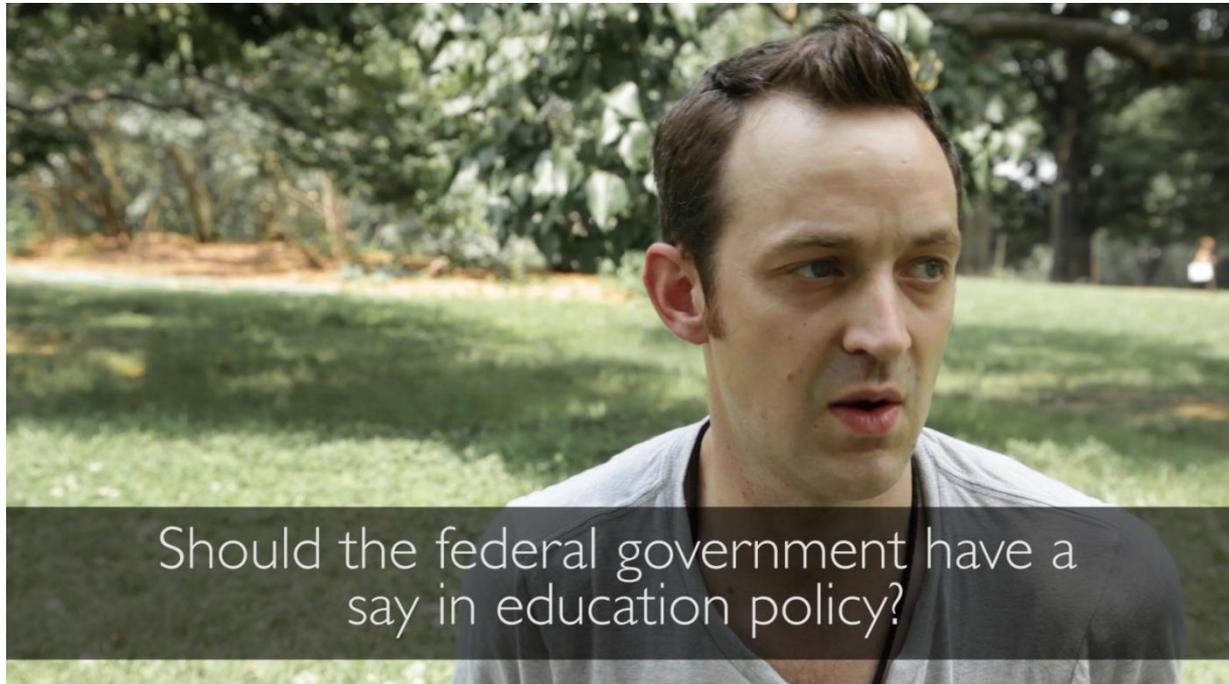
17.3

Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each of the principal sources of energy in the United States

17.4

Assess the role of democratic politics in making health care, environmental, and energy policy and the effect of these policies on the scope of government

Video: The Basics



Should the federal government have a say in education policy?



http://media.pearsoncmg.com/ph/hss/SSA_SHARED_MEDIA_1/polisci/presidency/Seg2_SocialPolicy_v2.html

Health Care Policy

- ▣ Cost of Health Care
- ▣ Access to Health Care
- ▣ Role of Government in Health Care
- ▣ Reform Efforts

Cost of Health Care

- ▣ \$2.8 trillion per year
 - 19% of GDP
- ▣ Spends most, covers least
 - All other developed countries have universal health care
 - 1/4 of federal budget
- ▣ Why spending so high?
 - Incentives
 - No single payer
 - Competition

Access to Health Care

- ▣ Quality of care varies
- ▣ How do Americans access health care?
 - Private insurance (2/3)
 - HMOs (over half)
 - Medicare (65 and older)
 - Medicaid (poor people)
 - CHIP (poor children)

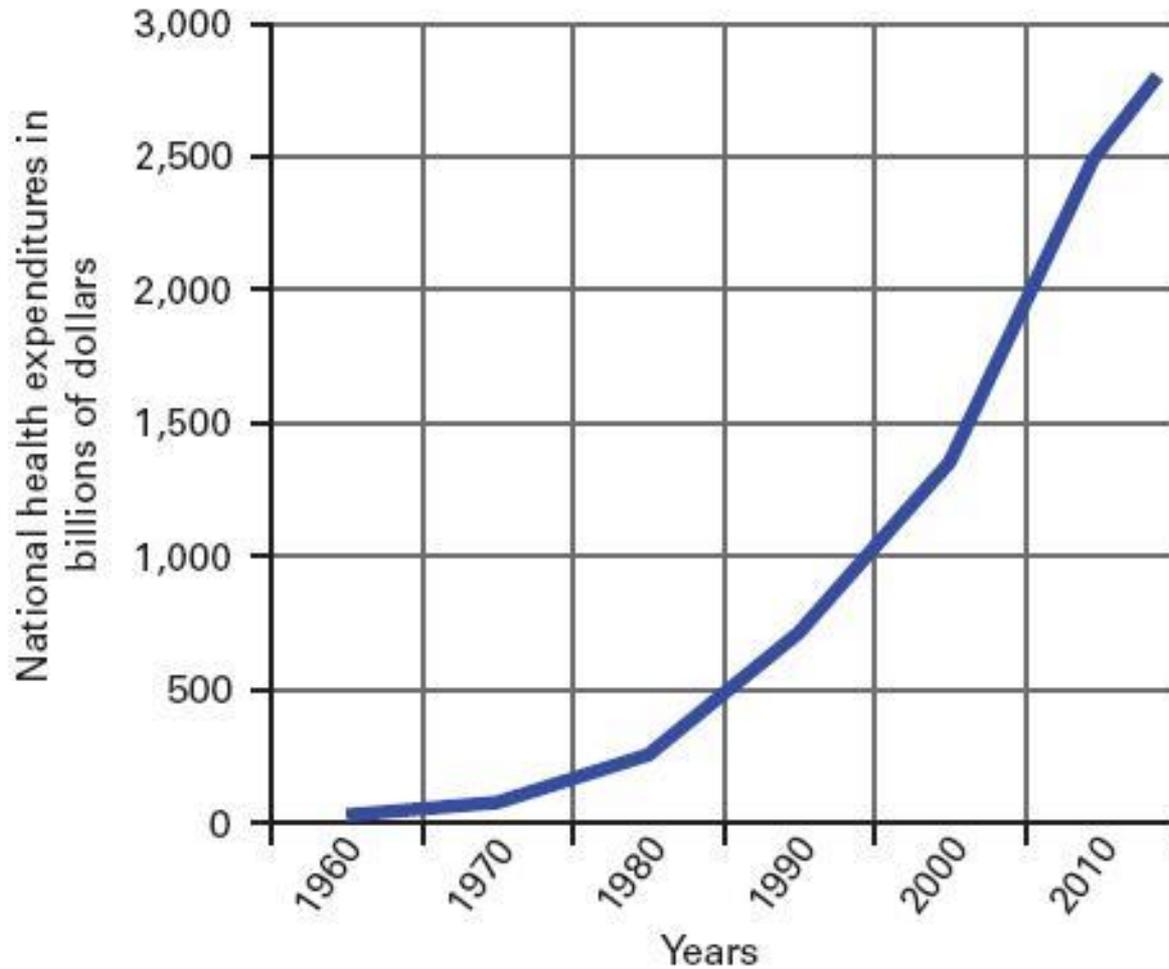
Access to Health Care

- ▣ The uninsured
 - 50 million (16%)
 - 7 million children (10%)
 - 10 million aged 18-25
 - No group rate

Access to Health Care

- ▣ Insurance link with jobs a quirk
 - 55% insured through employer
- ▣ Lack of preventative care
 - Higher risk of dying for uninsured

FIGURE 17.1: The rising cost of health care



Access to Health Care

- ▣ Disparities + cost = difficult policy decisions
 - Prevention or treatment?
- ▣ Rationing of care
 - Denial of care to loved ones
 - Insurance plan limits

Disparities in health care access

17.1



Role of Government in Health Care

- Government pays for 42% of health care
 - Tax breaks to employers
 - Public hospitals
 - NIH-funded research
 - Armed forces

Role of Government in Health Care

■ Medicare (1965)

- 50 million (16%)

- \$534 billion (14% of federal budget)

Role of Government in Health Care

- Medicaid (1965)
 - 50 million (16%)
 - \$300 billion fed/\$130 billion states

Reform Efforts

- ▣ National health insurance
 - Opposed by AMA
 - “Socialized medicine”

- ▣ Bill Clinton
 - Tried to tackle cost and access
 - Resounding failure

Reform Efforts

▣ Barack Obama

- Weak bill passed: Affordable Care Act (2010)
- Insurance industry retains power
- Mandate upheld by Supreme Court

President Obama's health care reform

17.1



Explore Social Policy: Is Health Care a Public Good?



http://media.pearsoncmg.com/long/long_edwards_mpslgi_a_16/pex/pex17.html

17.1 What government health care program covers people over age 65?

- a. Medicaid
- b. Social Security
- c. Medicare
- d. CHIP

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- d. CHIP

Explore the Simulation: You Are an OMB Staff Member

You Are an OMB Staff Member Introduction

The three biggest government programs dealing with social welfare in the United States include Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. All three are giant and in financial trouble. The outlays associated with these three programs make up more than half of the federal budget and their proportion of the budget is predicted to grow due to an increase in the number of retirees and a rise in the per-person costs associated with these benefits. In this simulation, you will learn more about these social welfare programs and possible solutions as you face four challenges as an Office of Management

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http://media.pearsoncmg.com/long/long_longman_media_1/2013_mpsl_sim/simulation.html?simulaURL=19

Video: In Context



http://media.pearsoncmg.com/ph/hss/SSA_SHARED_MEDIA_1/polisci/presidency/Seg3_SocialPolicy_v2.html

Environmental Policy

- ▣ Economic Growth and the Environment
- ▣ Environmental Policies in America
- ▣ Global Warming

Economic Growth and the Environment

- ▣ Environment v. jobs
 - Pollution inevitable byproduct of growth?
- ▣ Environmental movement of 1960s
 - Explosion of environmental groups
 - Science/growth of support
- ▣ Backlash

2010 BP oil spill

17.2



Environmental Policies in America

- ▣ EPA (1970)
- ▣ Environmental impacts
 - NEPA (1969)
 - Govt. agencies must file statements
- ▣ Clean Air Act of 1970

Environmental Policies in America

- Water Pollution Control Act of 1972
- Wilderness preservation
- Endangered Species Act of 1973

Environmental Policies in America

- ▣ Toxic Wastes
 - Superfund
- ▣ Nuclear Waste

Global Warming

- ▣ Potential effects
 - Sea level rise
 - Severe weather
 - Shift in agricultural zones

Polar bear and global warming

17.2



Global Warming

- ▣ Meeting in Rio in 1992
 - Set goals to reduce greenhouse gas
- ▣ Followed up in Kyoto in 1997
 - U.S. refused to agree to reduced emissions

Global Warming

- ▣ Developed v. developing countries
- ▣ Skeptics

17.2 Why is it difficult to get polluters to pay for clean-up of Superfund sites?

- a. Many polluting companies have gone out of business
- b. Polluters from 60 years ago are difficult to trace
- c. Litigation over liability can last for many years
- d. All of the above

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Video: Thinking Like a Political Scientist



http://media.pearsoncmg.com/ph/hss/SSA_SHARED_MEDIA_1/polisci/presidency/Seg4_SocialPolicy_v2.html

Energy Policy

- ▣ Coal
- ▣ Petroleum and Natural Gas
- ▣ Nuclear Energy
- ▣ Renewable Sources of Energy

Coal, Petroleum, and Natural Gas

▣ Coal

- 90% of fuel reserves
- 21% of energy/50% of electricity
- Dirtiest fuel

▣ Petroleum

- 36% of energy/automobiles
- 50% imported

▣ Natural gas

- 25% of energy

FIGURE 17.2: Sources of America's energy

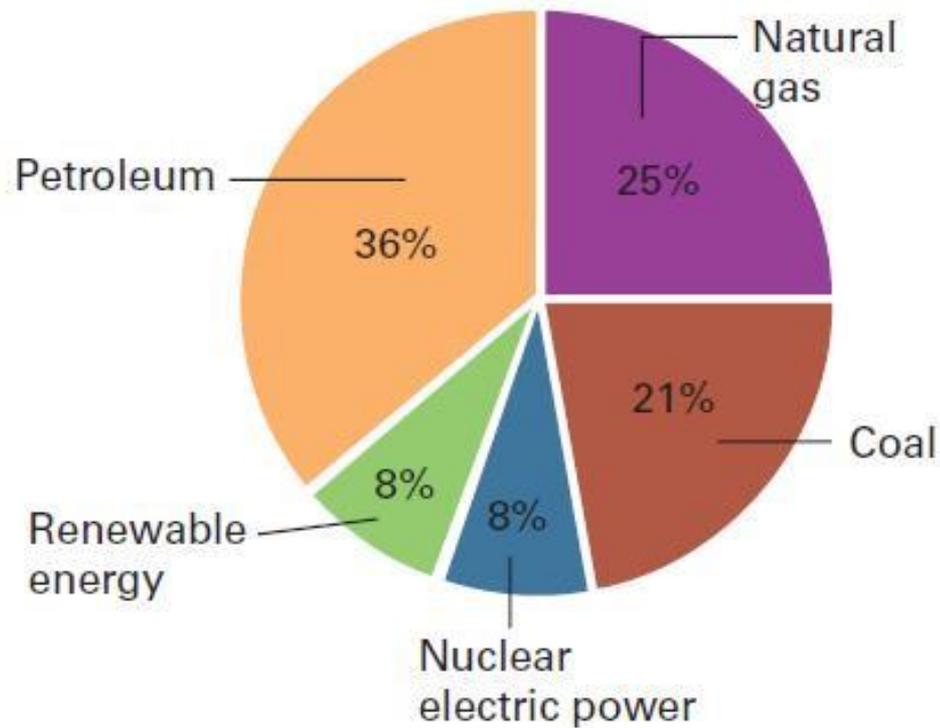
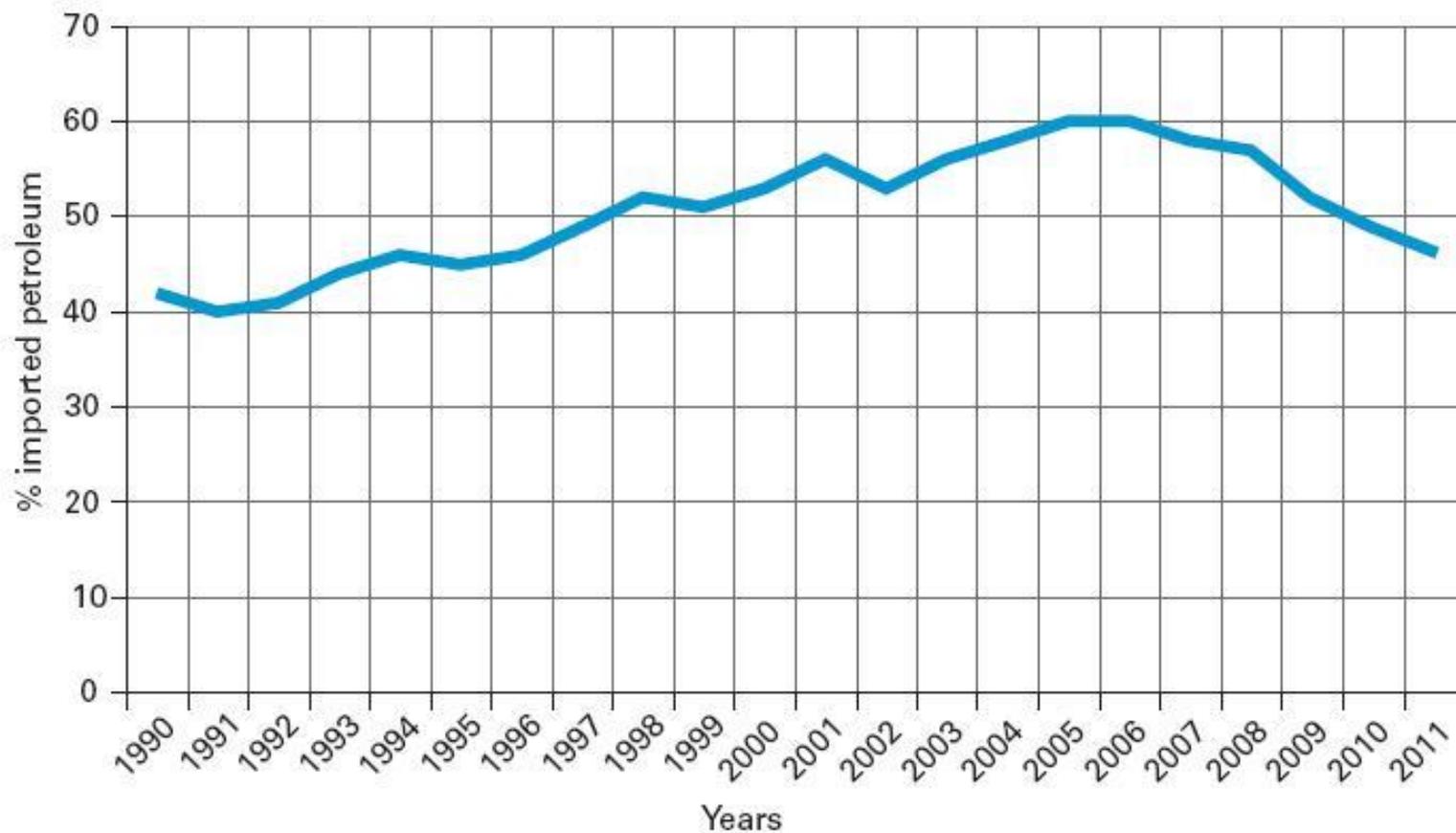


FIGURE 17.3: Importing petroleum

17.3



Nuclear Energy and Renewable Sources of Energy

- Nuclear energy
 - 20% of energy
 - Safety concerns
- Renewable sources of energy
 - 8%
 - Water, wind, sun, geothermal, biomass

17.3 Which fuel source provides the greatest percentage of U.S. energy?

- a. Petroleum
- b. Renewable energy
- c. Coal
- d. Nuclear

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Understanding Health Care, Environmental, and Energy Policy

- ▣ Democracy, Health Care, and Environmental Policy
- ▣ Scope of Government and Health Care, Environmental, and Energy Policy

Democracy, Health Care, and Environmental Policy

- ▣ Technologically complex decisions
 - Can citizens participate effectively?
- ▣ Democracy is a messy business
 - Ill-informed opinions
 - Interest groups help

Scope of Government and Health Care, Environmental, and Energy Policy

- ▣ Scope of government expanded in health care policy
 - Medicare and Medicaid
 - Tax breaks to employers
 - Yet system is mostly private
- ▣ Environmental protection has expanded federal government

17.4 How is the U.S. health care system unique?

- a. It costs less than systems in other countries
- b. It provides fewer doctors per capita than in other countries
- c. It is mostly private rather than public
- d. None of the above

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- a. It costs less than systems in other countries
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Video: In the Real World



http://media.pearsoncmg.com/ph/hss/SSA_SHARED_MEDIA_1/polisci/presidency/Seg5_SocialPolicy_v2.html

Discussion Question

What are some of the controversies and trade-offs involved in environmental policymaking?

Video: So What?



http://media.pearsoncmg.com/ph/hss/SSA_SHARED_MEDIA_1/polisci/presidency/Edwards_Ch17_Policymaking_for_Health_Care_Seg6_v2.html

Further Review: On MyPoliSciLab

- ▣ Listen to the Chapter
- ▣ Study and Review the Flashcards
- ▣ Study and Review the Practice Tests