

# Health Care Reform in the United States

## *Past, Present and Future Challenges*

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**Immediate Past President of the American Medical Association**

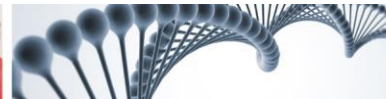
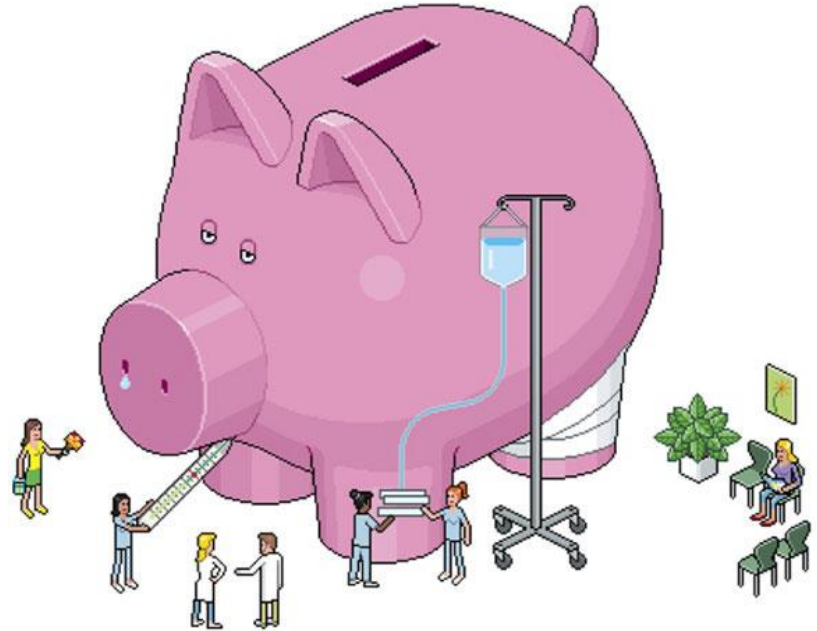


# The Case for Reform



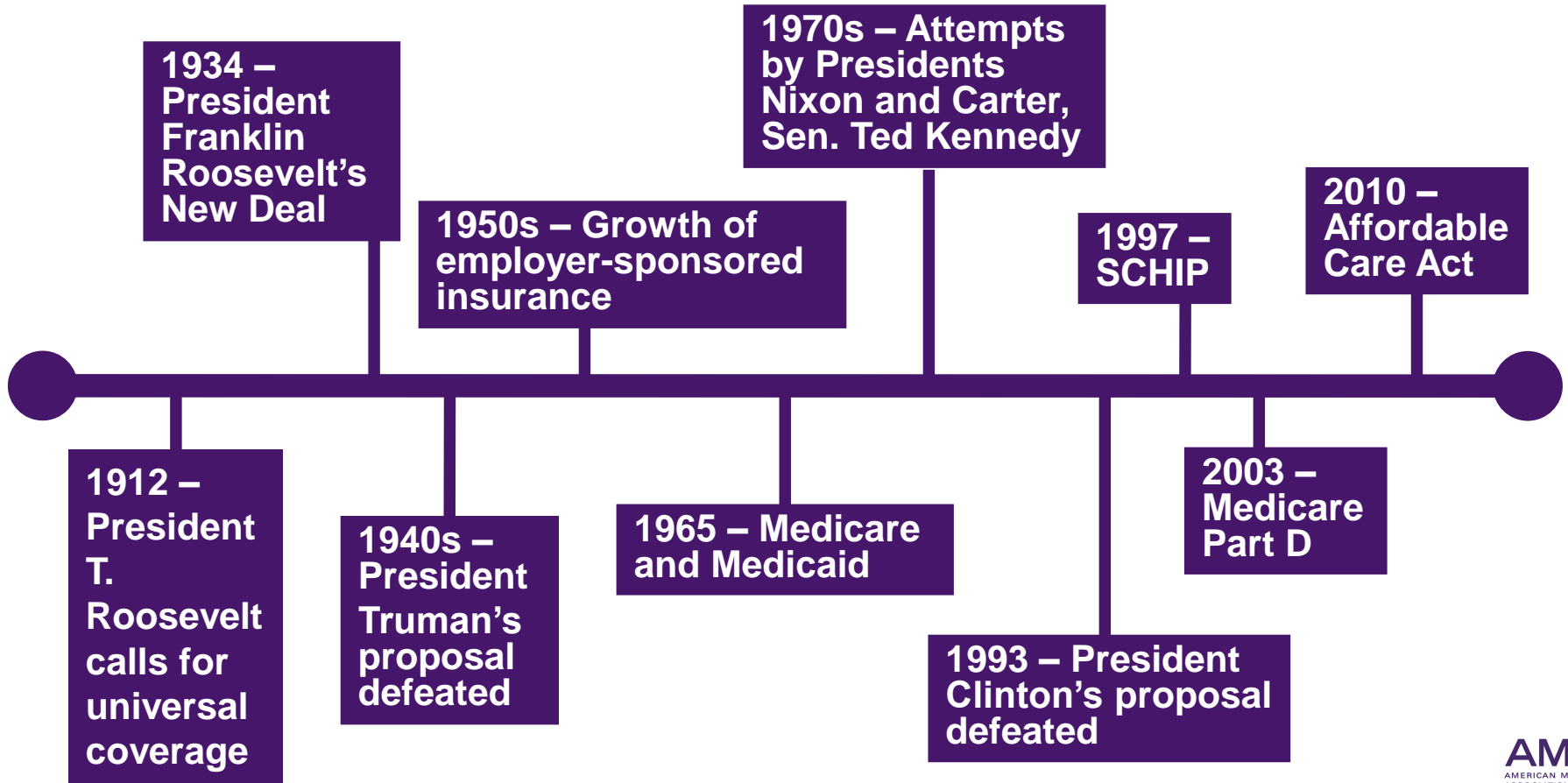
# An ailing health care system

- Tens of millions uninsured
- Chronic disease burden leading to increased costs
- Problematic insurance practices (e.g., denying coverage for pre-existing conditions)





# Historical Perspective





## The Politics of Reform



Hey Doc, How LONG is This Debate Gonna Last??



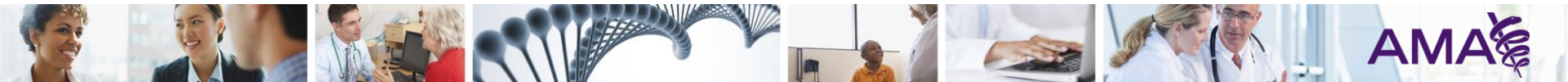


## AMA Efforts to Shape Reform

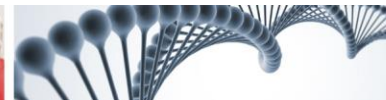


# AMA efforts to shape health reform

- AMA Mission: To promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health
- AMA supported the ACA because many of its major provisions are consistent with AMA policy:
  - Expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured
  - Making health coverage more affordable
  - Preventing denials of care and coverage, including those for pre-existing health conditions
  - Investments in prevention and wellness initiatives



# President Obama signs the *Affordable Care Act* March 23, 2010



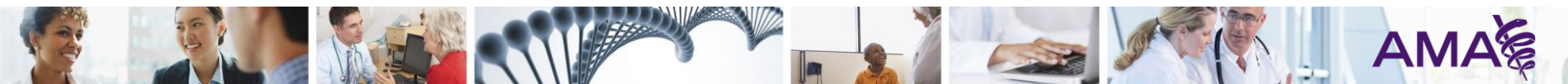
# Major areas of reform

Insurance  
Reforms

Emphasis  
on  
Prevention

Expansion  
of Medicaid

Payment  
and Delivery  
Reforms



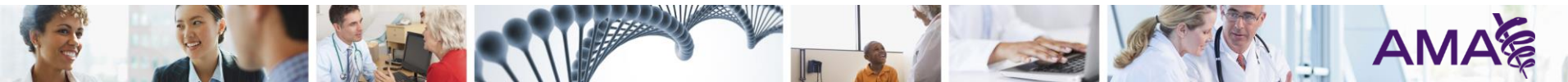
# Insurance reforms in the *Affordable Care Act*

Created exchanges and subsidies for purchase of insurance

Prohibited denial of coverage based on pre-existing condition

Eliminated lifetime limits on coverage

Extended dependent coverage to young adults < 26

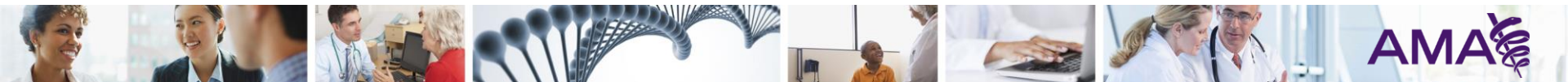


A photograph of a young Black female doctor in a white lab coat and stethoscope, smiling as she shows a tablet to an elderly white female patient. They are in a clinical setting with medical equipment like a vital signs monitor and a sink in the background.

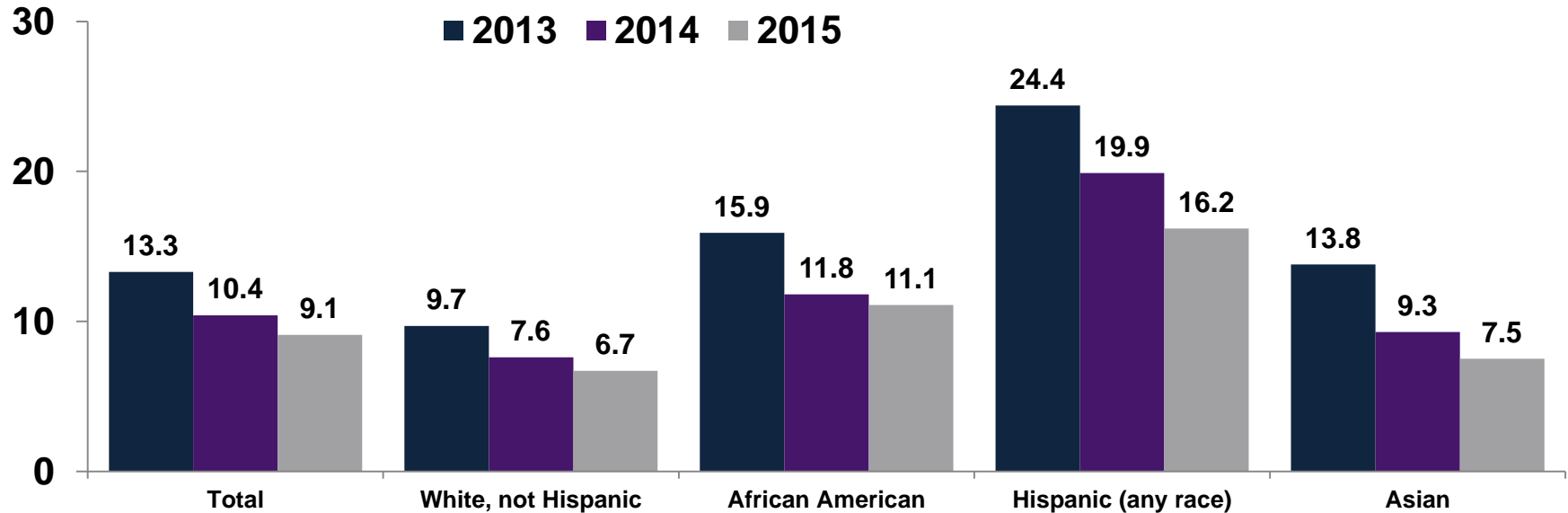
Results of the  
*Affordable Care Act*

# Access to meaningful, affordable insurance

- Millions of patients have already benefitted
  - 20 million people have gained coverage because of the ACA
  - 6.1 million young adults gained coverage
  - 137 million patients have private insurance coverage, of preventive services with no cost-sharing
  - 12.7 million patients signed up on exchanges
  - 15.4 million additional Medicaid and CHIP enrollees



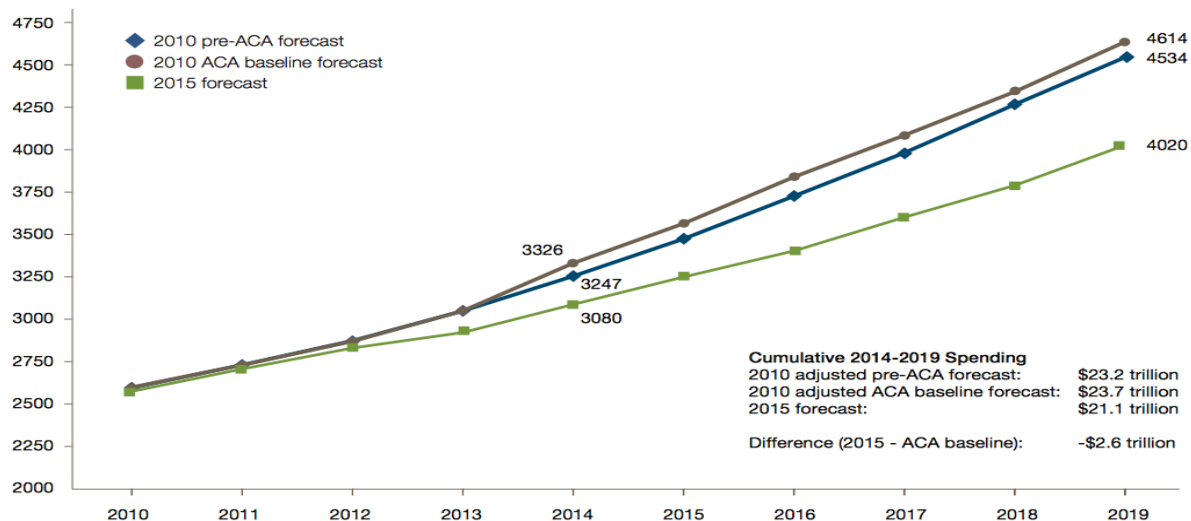
# Decline in percent uninsured by race and ethnicity



Notes: Percentages reflect people uninsured for the entire calendar year. FPL refers to federal poverty level.  
Source: US Census Bureau, Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2014 and 2015

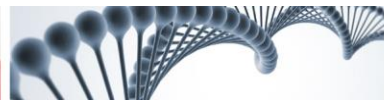
# Health expenditures projected to be less than expected

**Figure 1. National Health Expenditure Projects (\$ billions)**



Source: Authors' analysis of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services national health expenditure projections. Adjusted forecasts reflect alternative scenarios that assume the cuts to physician payments under the sustainable growth rate system are replaced with a rate freeze. 2015 forecast reflects permanent fix under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015.

Source: Analysis by Urban Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. June 2016



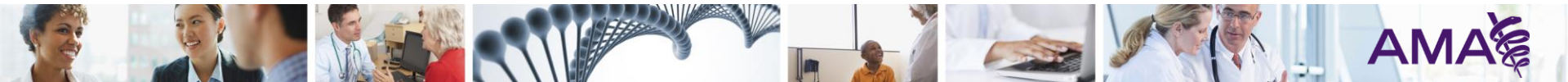




# Future Challenges; Epic Opportunities

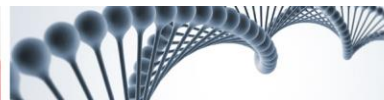
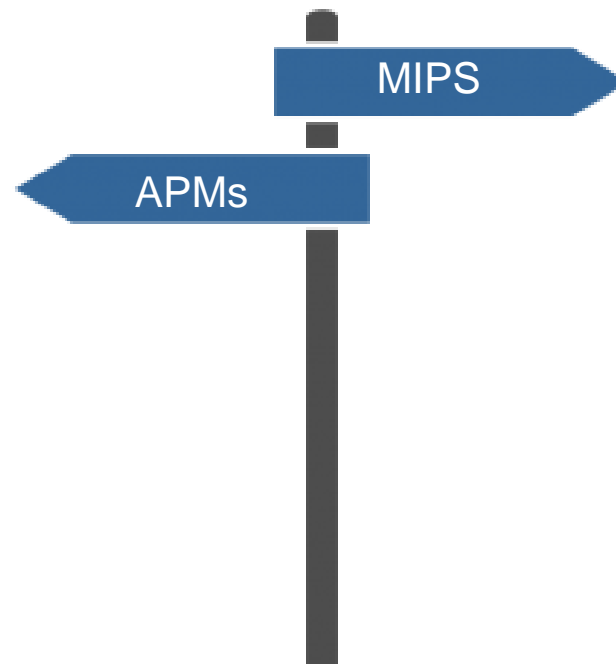
# Ongoing challenges

- Affordability of insurance continues to be an issue for some people
- Drug prices rising faster than other health care costs
- Exchanges need to attract more younger and healthier people
- Health insurers mergers
- Narrowing networks



# New Medicare payment law expands concepts in ACA

- Shifts focus from quantity of services provided to quality of services provided: value-based care.
- MACRA establishes two Medicare reimbursement paths for physicians
  - A modified fee-for-service model (MIPS)
  - New payment models that reduce costs of care and/or support high-value services not typically covered under the Medicare fee schedule (APMs)



# Improving health care through the AMA strategic plan



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“

The patients get a lot more time and attention from our team.

”

“

Before, there wasn't enough time in the office visit to get it all done.

”



“

When our team is satisfied, we work much better together.

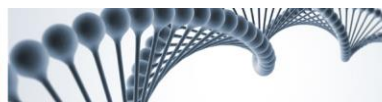
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# Next U.S. President, Congress will set future direction





*The AMA's vision for health reform is universal access to health care and insurance coverage for all Americans, which supports our values of pluralism, choice and freedom of practice.*

