

This is a sample of the instructor resources for Leiyu Shi, *Introduction to Health Policy*. The complete instructor resources include

- test bank
- answers to end-of-chapter case study questions
- answers to end-of-chapter discussion questions
- PowerPoint slides for each chapter

This sample includes the following resources for Chapter 1:

- answers to end-of-chapter case study questions
- answers to end-of-chapter discussion questions
- PowerPoint slides

If you adopt this text, you will be given access to the complete materials. To obtain access, e-mail your request to hap@ache.org and include the following information in your message:

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Chapter 1: Overview of Health Policy

Case Study Questions

After researching the events surrounding the healthcare reform initiatives undertaken by the Clinton and Obama administrations, answer the following questions:

1. *What factors might explain why the Obama plan succeeded? What events may have caused the Clinton plan to fail?*

With regard to the Obama plan, skyrocketing healthcare spending and the number of uninsured Americans reflect both the magnitude and the severity of the problems in the US healthcare system. These issues triggered renewed interests in and heated debate of healthcare among all kinds of stakeholders. Healthcare reform has been the focus in presidential campaigns in both parties. Furthermore, the example of healthcare reform in Massachusetts serves as a potential solution for the problem.

As for the Clinton plan, the ambitious administration significantly “underestimated the opposition and overestimated the support” (Oberlander 2007). The Clinton administration failed to gain support from any major stakeholders, Congress, hospitals, providers, pharmaceutical companies, and the public. The insurance industry even created an advertisement, “Harry and Louise,” and successfully rallied public opposition to the plan.

One major difference between the strategies is the speed with which this process was handled. While Clinton took time to build a consensus (which never happened), Obama rushed through the process to seize the window of opportunity.

2. *How do you think the failure of the Clinton healthcare reform effort influenced the outcome of the congressional election that followed?*

The failure weakened the Clinton administration and the Democratic Party and therefore emboldened Republicans, which contributed to their win in the Congressional election that followed.

3. *Why does health reform continue to be controversial despite widespread opinion in favor of change?*

The healthcare system is resistant to change, and the consequences associated with the failure to reform are enormous. Although the problems within the healthcare system are severe and widespread, divisions within the US political system and adherence to the status quo are significant challenges to health reform. “No matter how much momentum it seems to have, no matter how many signs point to change, there is nothing inevitable about health care reform in the United States” (Oberlander 2007). Furthermore, a variety of stakeholders with contradictory and conflicting interests pose further barriers to reform efforts. Interests may be divided even within an interest group. Moreover, a wide range of resources will need to be invested to implement reform, threatening its feasibility. Finally, policymakers are deeply concerned by the problems within the system, but the political will to change is undermined by vigorous opposition from all forces. At the same time, if reform fails, they are worried that there will be no political will to do anything about the uninsured for a long time.

Reference

Oberlander, J. 2007. “Learning from Failure in Health Care Reform.” *New England Journal of Medicine* 357 (17): 1677–79.

Discussion Questions

1. *How is health defined?*

WHO (1946) defines health as “not merely the absence of disease or infirmity but a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being.” Health is also the result of personal characteristics and choices.

2. *What are the major determinants of health? How do they interact?*

The major determinants of health are environment, health status, medical care, and individual characteristics. The framework in Exhibit 1.2 shows the interactions among these determinants.

3. *What is health policy, and what are its determinants?*

Health policy is legislation on individuals, organizations, or society aimed at improving health for the population or subpopulations.

Broad determinants include the nature of the health problem, the sociocultural norms that influence the perception of the problem, and the political system within which policy is formulated. Narrower determinants include potential solutions to the identified health problem, views and efforts of the stakeholders, demonstrated leadership of the policymakers, and the availability of resources needed to implement the policy.

4. *Who are the stakeholders of health policy? What kinds of concerns does each stakeholder have about the current US healthcare system?*

- Consumers and patients: They are typically the intended beneficiaries of health policy because they bear the consequences of a health problem than could be the target of health policy.

- Healthcare providers: They value autonomy and the prestige and expertise associated with their careers.
- Healthcare organizations: They are concerned with how to better serve their customers and deliver high-quality care while maintaining the financial well-being and competitiveness of their institutions.
- Payers and insurers: For private insurers, the main concern is maintaining their share of the health insurance market. For public insurers, the main interest is ensuring coverage for vulnerable populations at reasonable costs.
- Regulators: They regulate the healthcare system to ensure the availability of basic services and the quality of the services and to control overall costs.
- Medical device and pharmaceutical manufacturers: Their main concerns are the sale of their products, profits, and their competitiveness and market share.
- Educational and research institutions: Health policy affects the type and quantity of healthcare providers to be trained and the types of research to be conducted.
- Businesses and corporations: These stakeholders seek to minimize the costs they incur for providing health insurance as a benefit to their employees.

5. *What are the major types of health policies? Cite an example of each type.*

The two major types of health policies are regulatory health policies and allocative health policies. Examples of regulatory policies include prohibition of smoking in public places, licensure requirements for medical professions, and processes related to the approval of new drugs. Allocative health policies can be distributive policies and redistributive policies.

Examples of distributive policies are the funding of medical research through the National Institutes of Health, provision of public health and health promotion services, training of

medical personnel, and construction of healthcare facilities. Examples of redistributive policies include means-tested social insurance programs, such as Medicaid, the welfare program, and public housing.

6. *Why is it important to study health policy?*

Understanding the development of health policy is the first step toward influencing policy.

The study of health policy enables one to engage in efforts to improve it. Furthermore, health policy is an integral component of the framework of the determinants of health. It influences not only health but also the other components in the framework. Therefore, studying health policy and subsequently improving policy development can significantly improve population health and enhance the entire health system.

Chapter 1

Overview of Health Policy

US Healthcare System

- Healthcare spending at 17.9% of GDP
- Health status ranks 37th among 191 countries (WHO 2010)
- Health indicators rank last among six selected countries in a survey (Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, and UK) (Commonwealth Fund 2010)

Health Defined

- A state of complete **physical, mental, and social well-being**, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (WHO 1946)
- The result of personal characteristics and choices

Health Defined (cont'd)

- Physical health
 - Life expectancy
 - Mortality
 - Morbidity
 - Disability
 - Quality of life

Health Defined (cont'd)

- Mental health
 - Mental conditions
 - Behaviors
 - Perceptions
 - Satisfaction
 - Services received

Health Defined (cont'd)

- Social well-being
 - Socioeconomic status (SES)
 - Income, education, and occupational status
 - Quality of life
 - Social contacts and social resources

Public Health Defined

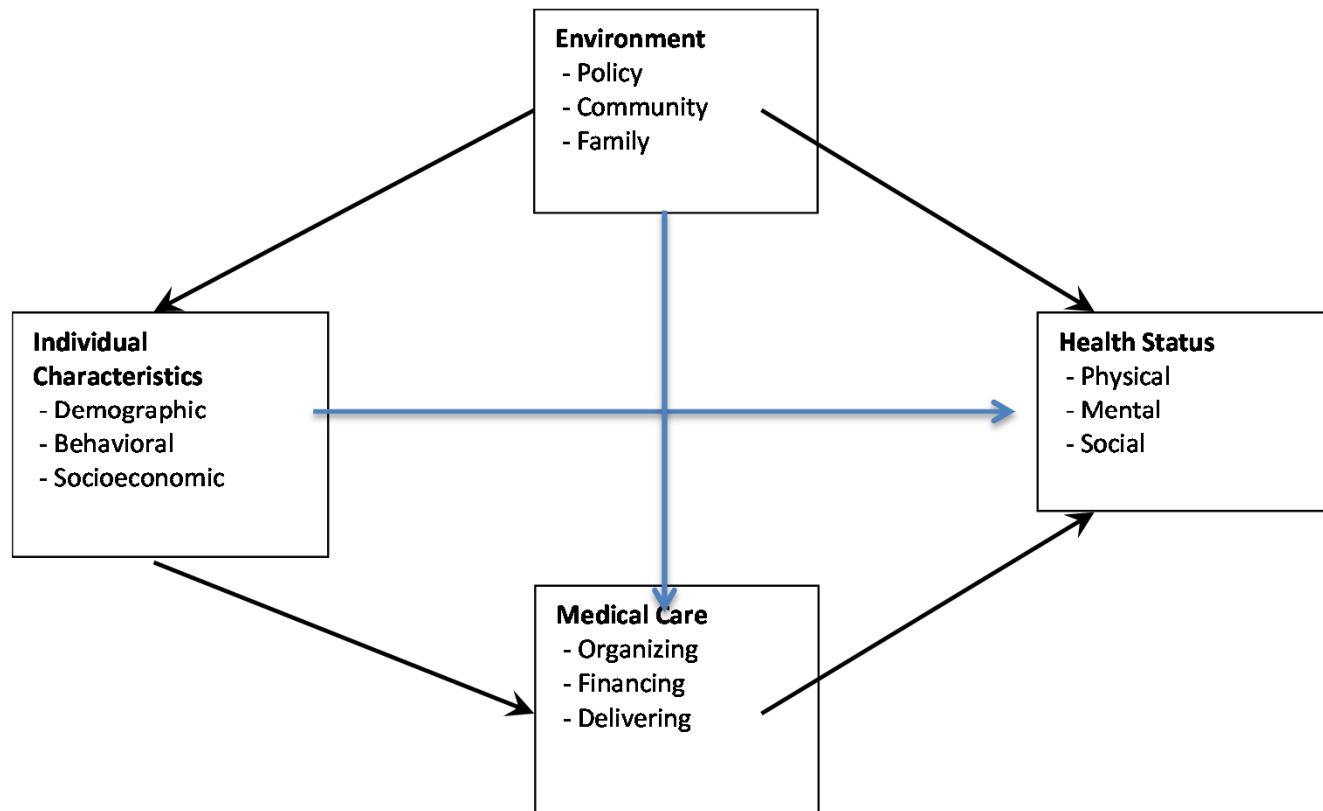
“The science and the art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting physical health and efficiency through organized community efforts for the sanitation of the environment, the control of community infections, the education of the individual in principles of personal hygiene, the organization of medical and nursing service for the early diagnosis and preventive treatment of disease, and the development of social machinery which will ensure to every individual in the community a standard of living adequate for the maintenance of health.”

—Winslow, 1920

Public Health Defined (cont'd)

- Two main goals (American Public Health Association)
 - “The practice of preventing disease and promoting good health within groups of people”
 - Research and surveillance to better understand the health issues facing a group and, in turn, to be able to craft good health policy

Determinants of Health



Determinants of Health—Environment

- Physical dimension
 - Air, noise, water pollution, etc.
 - Contains health hazards resulting from human activity
- Social dimension
 - Reflected in a nation's political, economic, and cultural preferences
 - Includes behavioral health factors and demographic trends

Determinants of Health—Individual Characteristics

- Demographics
 - Age, gender, race, and ethnicity
- Behaviors
 - Leisure activity risks (less control/regulation)
 - Consumption risks (less control/regulation)
 - Employment participation and occupational risks (more control/regulation)
- Socioeconomic status (SES)
 - Income
 - Education
 - Occupational status

Determinants of Health—Medical Care

- Medical care is different from other goods and services
 - Demand is derived from health needs
 - Agency relationship
 - Healthcare pricing varies according to who pays the fees
 - Provision is influenced by the environment

Policy Defined

- A decision made by an authority about an action—either one to be taken or one to be prohibited
- To promote or limit the occurrence of a particular circumstance in a population
- Public policy intended to serve the interests of the public at large
- Private policy affects the private organization only

Health Policy Defined

- Legislation pertaining to individuals, organizations, or society with the goal of improving health for populations or subpopulations
- May influence each component in the determinants-of-health framework directly or indirectly
- Affects groups or classes of individuals and organizations

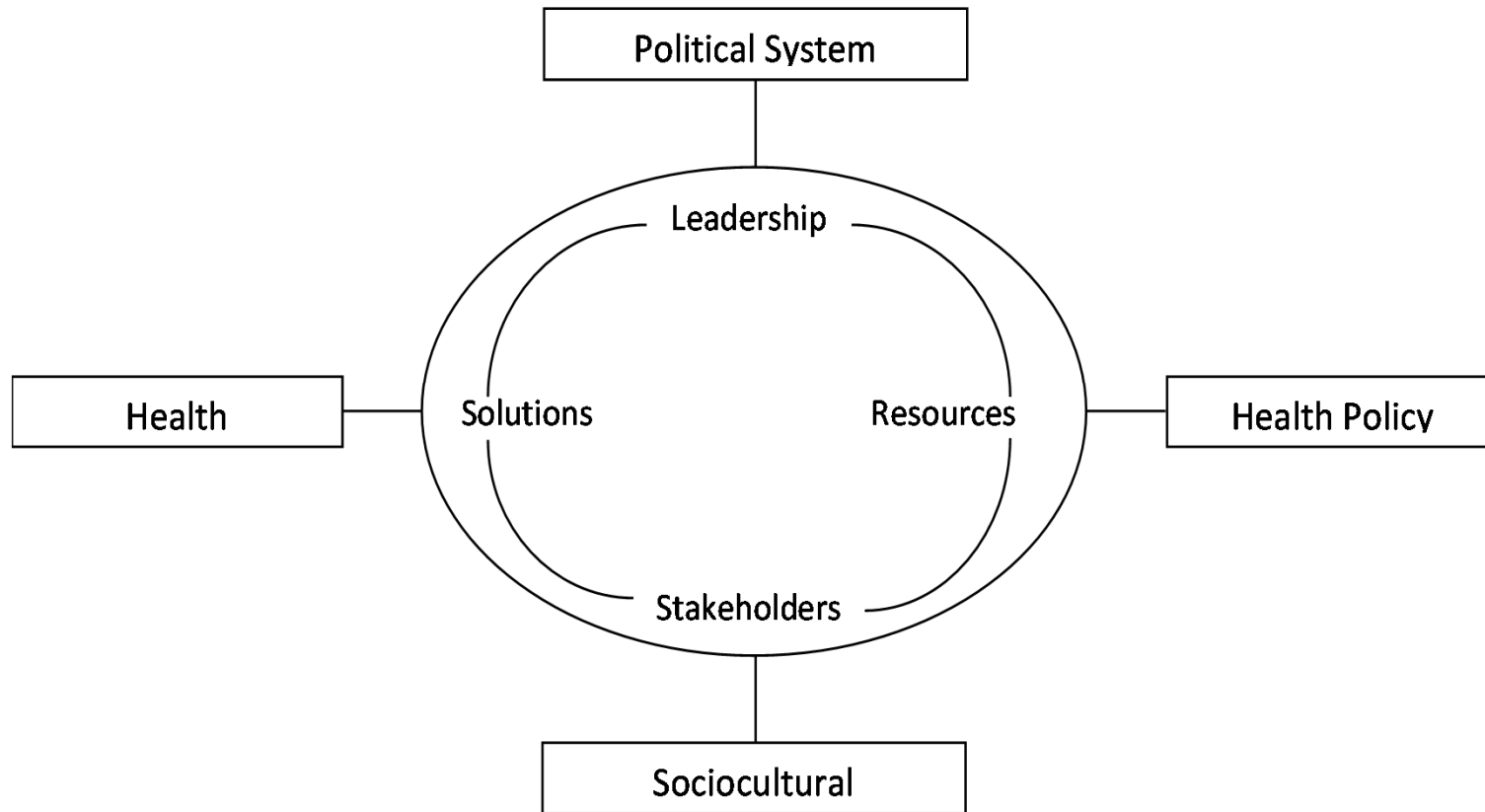
Healthcare Policy

- Part of health policy focusing on healthcare
- Pertains to the financing, organization, and delivery of care
- Goals typically are to provide equitable and efficient access to, and ensure the quality of, healthcare services

Types of Health Policy

- Regulatory health policies
 - Regulatory tools that call on government to prescribe and control the behavior of a particular target group by monitoring the group and imposing sanctions if it fails to comply
 - Private health policies can also be regulatory
- Allocative health policies
 - Distributive policies spread benefits throughout society
 - Redistributive policies take money or power from one group and give it to another

Determinants of Health Policy



Broad Determinants of Health Policy

- The nature of the health problem
 - Magnitude
 - Severity
- Sociocultural norms
 - Reflect the accepted values, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of a society or group
- Political system
 - Democratic versus single party

Narrow Determinants of Health Policy

- Potential solutions to the identified health problem
- Views and efforts of stakeholders
- Demonstrated leadership of policymakers
- Availability of resources needed to implement the policy
 - Financial feasibility
 - Administrative feasibility

Stakeholders in Health Policy

- Stakeholders
 - Entities or individuals who have a direct or indirect role in the development of policy
- Stakeholders influence:
 - Formulation of health policy
 - Implementation of health policy
 - Modification of health policy

Interest Group

- Interest group
 - Individuals or entities that at least nominally present a unified position on their preferences regarding a particular health problem or its solution
 - Lobbying by organized interest groups is a common component of the political process in a democracy

Major Stakeholders in US Health Policy

- Consumers and patients
 - Intended beneficiaries of health policy
- Healthcare providers
 - Autonomy
 - Prestige and expertise associated with their careers
- Healthcare organizations
 - Deliver care to patients
 - Financial well-being

Major Stakeholders in US Health Policy (cont'd)

- Payers and insurers
 - Private insurance: to maintain their share of the health insurance market
 - Public insurance: to ensure coverage for vulnerable populations at reasonable costs

Major Stakeholders in US Health Policy (cont'd)

- Regulators
 - Availability of basic services
 - High quality
 - Contained cost

Major Stakeholders in US Health Policy

(cont'd)

- Medical device and pharmaceutical manufacturers
 - Payment for use of their products
- Educational and research institutions
 - Type and quantity of healthcare providers to be trained
 - Types of research to be conducted
- Business and corporations
 - Minimize the cost of health insurance as a benefit for their employees

Importance of Studying Health Policy

- The first step toward influencing policy
- Allows one to engage in efforts to improve it
- Health policy influences population health because:
 - It is an integral component of health determinants
 - It influences other determinants of health

Conclusion

- Health
- Public health
- Determinants of health
- Policy
- Health policy
 - Types
 - Determinants
 - Stakeholders
 - Importance of studying health policy