Medicare’s Rising Budget:
A study of Medicare’s Rising Budgetary Allotment

By Yair Inspektor

PL SC 497
Created in 1965

The Medicare program is subdivided into two parts.

One of the largest government programs ($245,269,000 in 2001)

experienced a gradual yet consistent ascent in both budgetary allocation and organizational interest
Elderly population is at a rise, at a current standing of 34.8 million over 65 and projected to 39.7 by 2010, the expense on healthcare has increasingly become a heated debate.

Various congressmen, SMOs, and most specifically, Bush’s $400 billion Medicare Prescription Drug Modernization Act.
Hypothesis:

While various co-factors influence the budgetary allocation for Medicare, I hypothesize a positive relationship between Medicare’s budgetary allocation and Social Movement Organizations.
Dichotomy

SMO Mobilization

Budget Allocation

Partisan Politics

Elderly Population

Media
Prior to 1965

- AMA: Formed American Medical Political Action Committee (AMPAC). “Support Ways and Means Committee who had opposed the social security health care bill in the Past”

- AFL-CIO: Committee of Political Education (COPE) “Support Ways and Means Committee who support the social security health care bill”

- National Council of Senior Citizens AMA Dr. F.J.L. Blasingame: “Nothing more then a lobbying appendage of the democratic national committee and the AFL-CIO”
Post 1965: Medicare Budget Increase Proponents

Organizational Density/Founding Dates

Source: Policy Agendas Project
Source: Policy Agendas Project
Hearings about Medicare in Health

Source: Policy Agendas Project
1985  The Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) required hospitals participating in Medicare that operated active emergency rooms to provide appropriate medical screenings and stabilizing treatments.

1987  The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 (OBRA87) strengthened the protections for residents of nursing homes.

1988  The Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act

1989  The Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 was repealed after higher-income elderly protested new premiums.

1996  The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

1997  Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA)

1999  The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvements Act of 1999 (TWWIIA) expanded the availability of Medicare and Medicaid for certain disabled beneficiaries who return to work.

Sources: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and CQ Almanac
Media attention

Year

Articles


Source: New York Times Historical
Potential Problems

1. Co-factors produce increased

2. Elderly population
Elderly Population

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Age and Budget

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Derived Conclusions

- Congressional hearings as well as media attention do not seem to be direct factors in budgetary increase.

- While other variables (specifically the rise in elderly population) demonstrate some relationship with the increasing Medicare Budget, Organizational density seems to have the strongest correlation.
Research Methods & Data

Quantitative Analysis:
- Associations Unlimited
- Policy Agendas Project
- Census Bureau
- New York Times Historical

Analytical Analysis:
- Lexis Nexus Congressional Universe abstract
- Congressional Almanac Weekly
- Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Other secondary sources
# Associations Unlimited

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Free Text</th>
<th>Subject Descriptor</th>
<th>Hits</th>
<th>Noise</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>&quot;Health Care&quot;</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly</td>
<td>&quot;Health Care&quot;</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly Health</td>
<td>&quot;Health Care&quot;</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly Health</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy Agendas Project

- Budgetary Allotment figures
- Congressional Hearings Allots code 303 to Medicare and Medicaid exclusively
New York Times Historical

• Citation and Abstract
• Any Article Type
• By Year from 1965 to 2000
• 2273 Articles hit. Approximately less than one out of ten was noise
CQ Almanac

1950-1965


Corning, Peter A. “The evolution of Medicare...from idea to law” http://www.ssa.gov/history/corning.html


