

Medicaid in the 1990s: Trends, Innovations, and the Future of the “PAC–Man” of State Budgets

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Abstract

Rapidly escalating health-care inflation and congressionally mandated expansions have led to large increases in spending for Medicaid, the federal-state program of health care for the poor. These increases came at a time when state budgets were already under recession-induced stresses. In addition, 1991 brought new pressures for Medicaid spending from the courts and closer federal scrutiny and control over revenues used for the program's state “match.” Yet the Medicaid picture is far from bleak. Diversity, innovation, and an emerging stale policy role also characterize the program in ways that epitomize the strengths and weaknesses of the American intergovernmental system.

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