

Who's Entitled to What? The Future of Our Public Health Care Programs

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Helpful Web Sites

– **AARP:**

- <http://www.aarp.org/health/health-care-reform/>

– **AHA:**

- <http://www.aha.org/>

– **The Catholic Health Association:**

- <http://www.chausa.org/>

– **The Commonwealth Fund:**

- <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Health-Reform.aspx>

– **Families USA:**

- <http://www.familiesusa.org/health-reform-central/>

– **The Governance Institute**

- <http://www.governanceinstitute.com>

– **The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation:**

- <http://healthreform.kff.org/>

Five Key Issues (among others)

- **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**
- **Medicare**
- **Medicaid**
- **Children's Health Insurance Program**
- **Deficit/debt reduction**

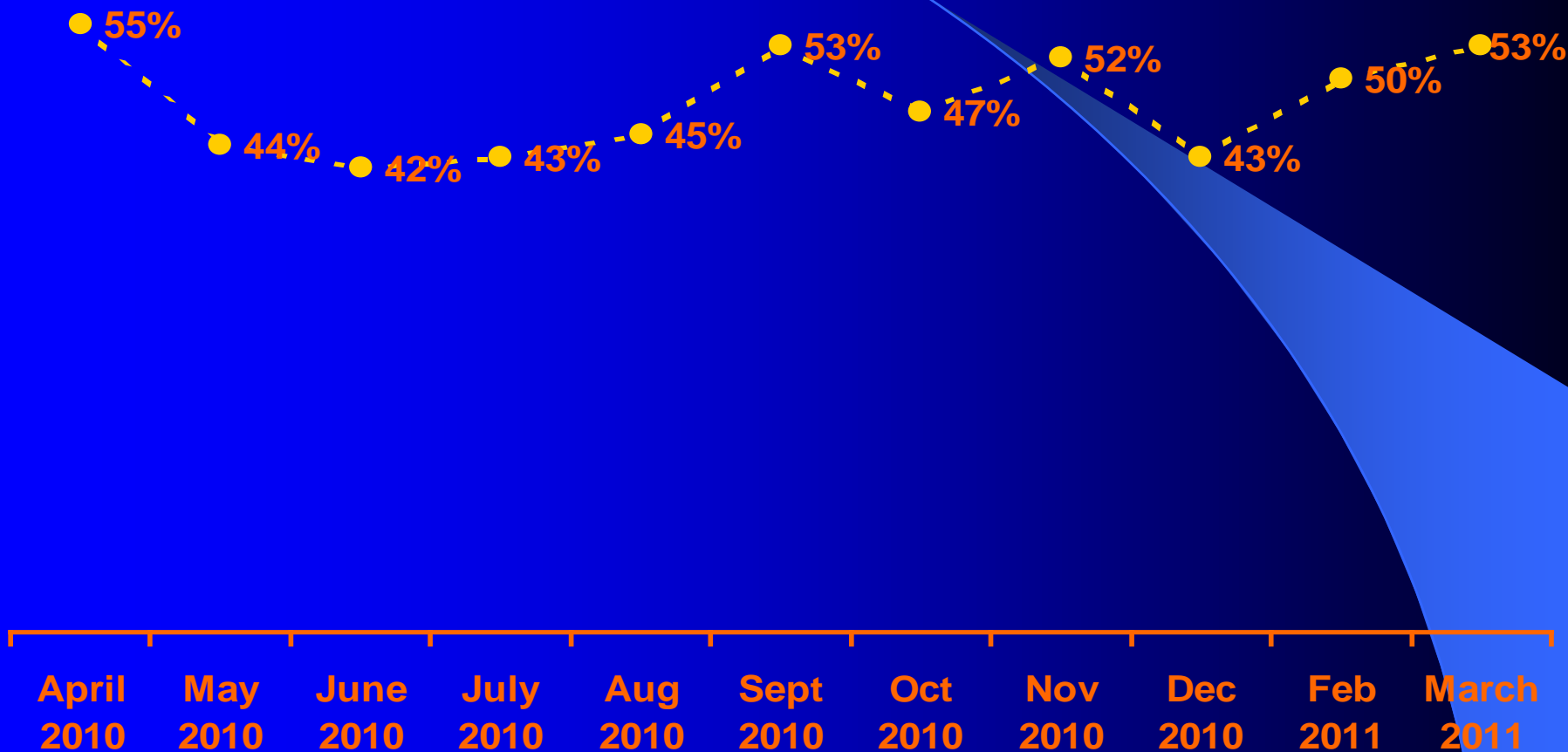
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- **Many aspects of this law**
- **Key issues:**
 - **Insurance mandate**
 - **Medicaid expansion**
 - **Constitutionality**
 - **Severability**
- **Many court cases**
- **2012 decision by the Supremes**

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)

- **Meanwhile, implementation continues on the federal level and in states**
 - **Insurance rate review**
 - **Medicaid changes**
 - **Many popular features**
 - **Medicare “doughnut hole” relief**
 - **Keeping young adults on parents’ insurance**
 - **But some dismantling**
 - **And so much public confusion**

Americans Are Confused About ACA



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, 2011

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Medicare

- **Boomers**
- **Increasing costs**
- **Will go broke in the next few years (opinions differ)**
- **ACA's impact (Medicare Part D)**
- **No political consensus on a solution**

Medicaid

- **So many different groups of beneficiaries**
- **States have a lot of power – but not enough money**
- **Always a political football**
- **Immune from automatic deficit reduction triggers for a while, but not from the “super committee”**

Children's Health Insurance Program

- **A very successful effort**
- **Again, varies by state**
- **Protected until 2015**
- **Unlikely to sustain major cuts, except perhaps in provider payments**
- **Has ties to Medicaid**

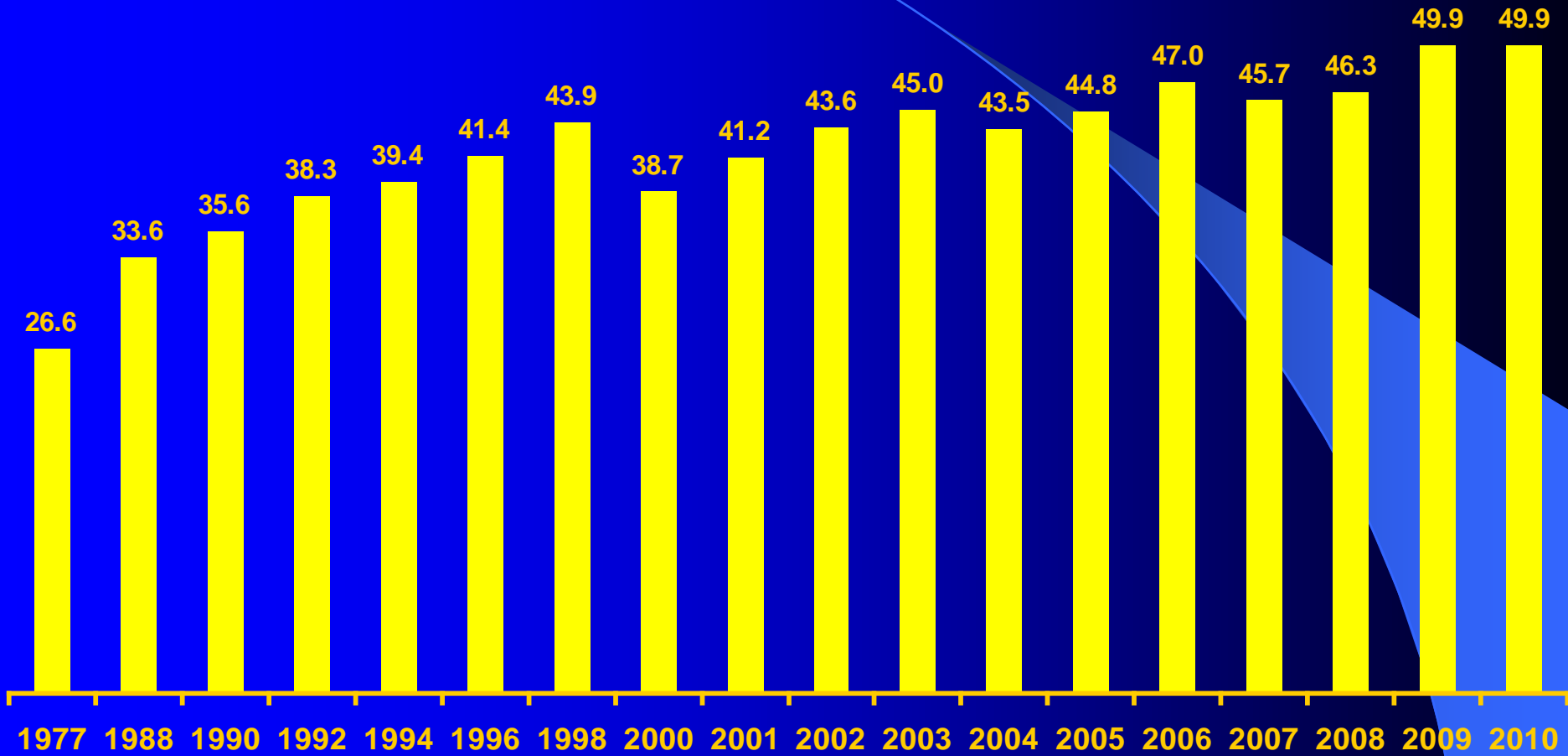
Deficit and Debt Reduction

- **The “Super Committee” versus automatic triggers**
- **Election next year**
- **Is consensus possible?**
- **Sooner or later, health care will have to be part of the solution**

Key Public and Policy Concerns

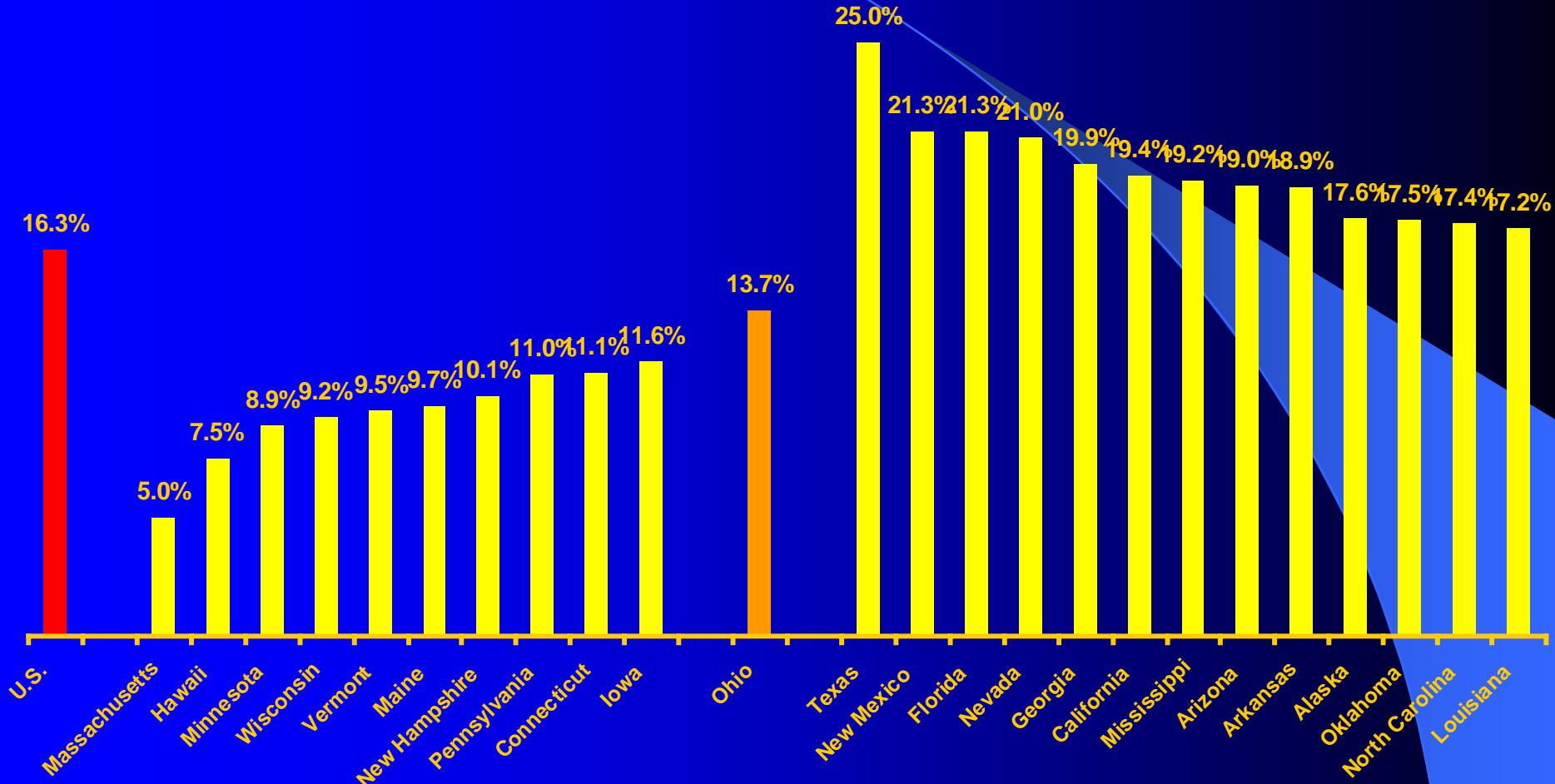
- **The number of uninsured continues to grow**
- **Access versus coverage**
- **The quality of care**
- **Disinformation and misinformation**
- **Eroding public trust**
- **Change resistance**

Uninsured Americans, 1977-2010 (in millions)



Source: Census Bureau, 2011
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Uninsured Americans by State, 2010



Source: Census Bureau, 2011

Copyright Emily Friedman 2011

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**Coverage is a *promise*; access
is a *fact*.**

Emily Friedman

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“The change cannot only be in our health care system.... This change must...come from the inside, from ourselves, those selves that must wrestle with the fact that we are both patients and would-be patients, hurting and needy, alone with our individual needs, and yet also members of local communities, families, and a larger society, whose collective well-being gives our individuality a place and an enhanced meaning.... A system that guaranteed a minimally decent level of health care for all, in turn asking each of us to rein in our private demands, would be a decent and manageable one. That is not an impossible ideal.”

Daniel Callahan

Comments? Questions?

www.emilyfriedman.com

Thank you!