



State Health Reform Initiatives: Are There Lessons for Federal Policymakers?

Alliance for Health Reform/Commonwealth Fund

November 20, 2006

**Anne Gauthier
Senior Policy Director
The Commonwealth Fund
www.cmwf.org**

The Commonwealth Fund Commission on a High Performance Health System



Objective:

- Move the U.S. toward a higher-performing health care system that achieves better access, improved quality, and greater efficiency, with particular focus on the most vulnerable due to income, gaps in insurance coverage, race/ethnicity, health, or age

The Commission is made up of 19 Commission members who come with diverse practical and policy expertise in health care delivery, financing, and access and quality improvement.



Commission Conception of High Performing Health System

QUALITY

- Getting the right care
- Coordinated care
- Safe care
- Patient-centered care

ACCESS

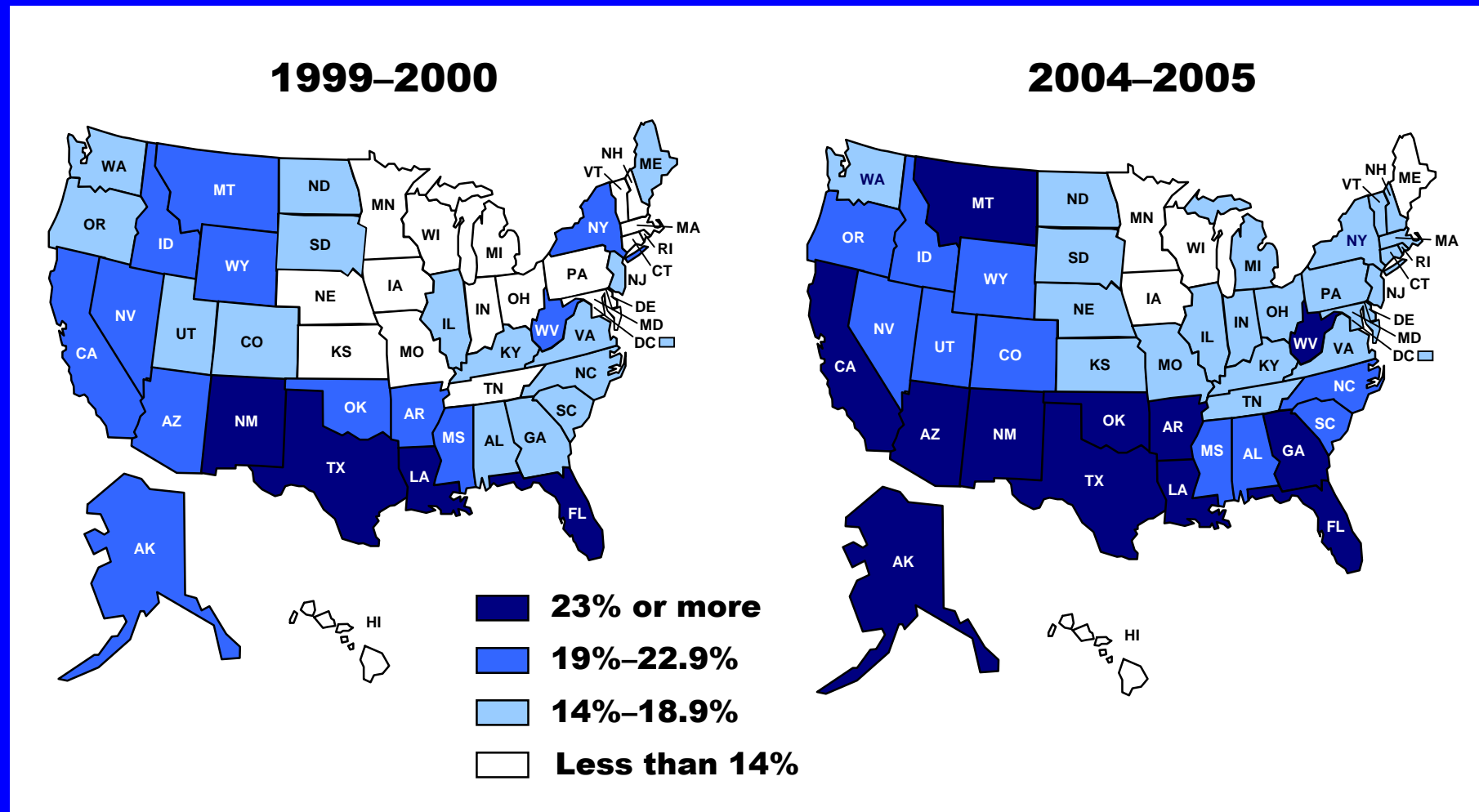
- Universal participation
- Affordable
- Equitable

LONG,
HEALTHY, AND
PRODUCTIVE
LIVES

EFFICIENCY

SYSTEM CAPACITY TO IMPROVE

Percent of Adults Ages 18–64 Uninsured by State



Data: Two-year averages 1999–2000 and 2004–2005 from the Census Bureau's March 2000, 2001 and 2005, 2006 Current Population Surveys. Estimates by the Employee Benefit Research Institute.



The Commonwealth Fund State Innovations Program: Evaluating & Promoting the Spread of Best Practices

- **Maine “Dirigo” Health Care Reform**
 - Evaluate the impact of the state’s financing strategy for broadening coverage on employers & enrollees
 - Survey in field October 2006
- **Massachusetts Health Care Reform**
 - Evaluate impact of coverage expansion on low income enrollees
 - Base-line data collection starts October 2006
- **National Academy for State Health Policy Project**
 - Environmental scan of “State Health Policies Aimed at Promoting Excellent Systems”
 - Qualitative companion to Commission's quantitative National Scorecard and State Scorecard
 - Survey in field late September 2006
- **United Hospital Fund Blueprint for the State of New York**
 - Careful modeling of universal coverage options to inform a new governor
- **States in Action Newsletter: A Look at Innovations in Health Policy**
 - Includes in-depth profiles of states making a difference, short snapshots of promising programs and updates on ongoing state innovations

