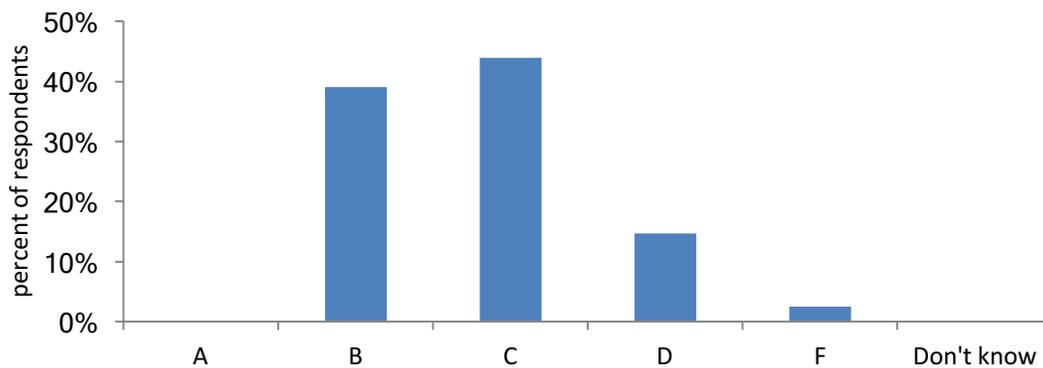


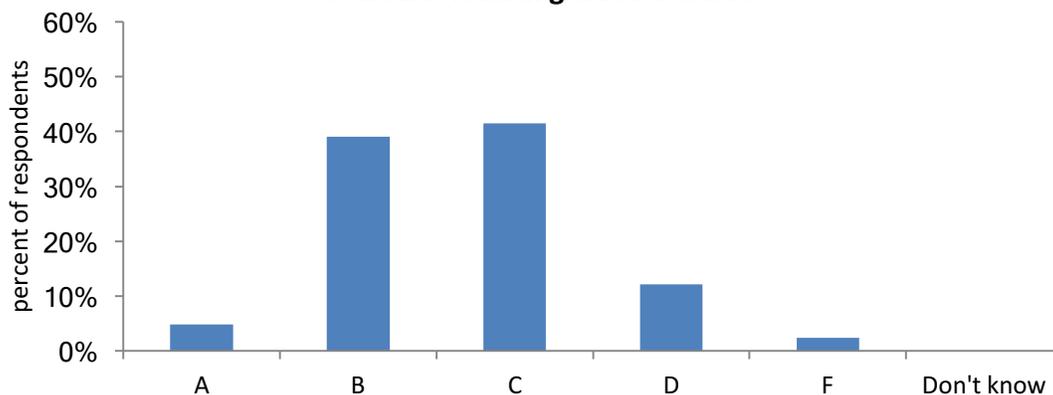
Connecticut drops to a C this year for health reform

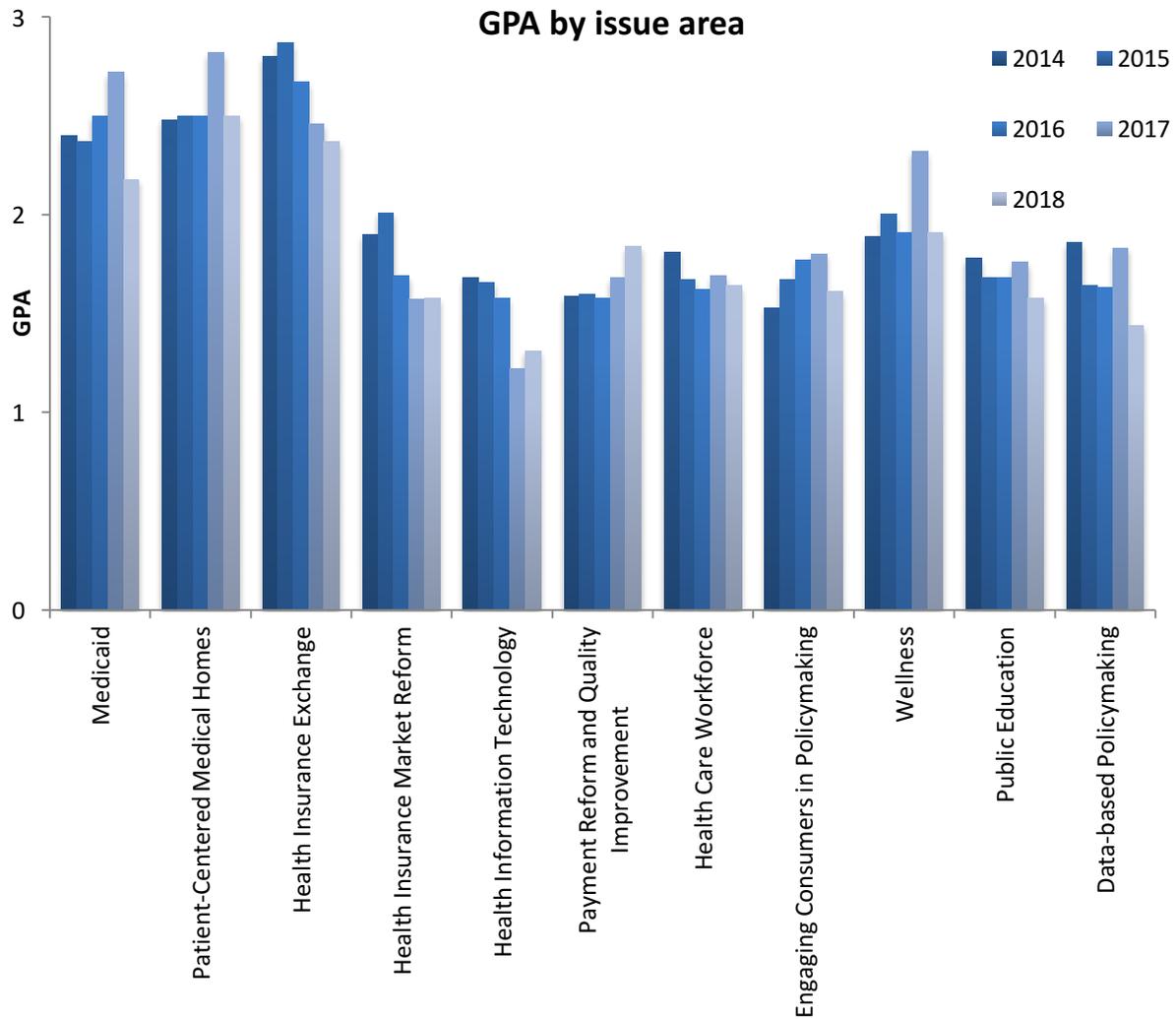
Connecticut health care thought leaders lowered our state to a C grade for health reform this year, matching the lowest grades in five years. No thoughtleader rated our state an A this year. Connecticut’s grade for effort also dropped in this survey, down to C+. Health policy areas that lost the most ground included Medicaid, data-based policymaking, consumer involvement in policymaking and the insurance exchange. New survey questions found deep concerns about health policy changes at the federal level, but varying expectations about the impact of political changes in Connecticut. Opportunities identified included collaboration and inclusiveness. Concerns centered on costs, prices and government funding for healthcare. Thoughtleaders advice for the next Governor included the opportunity to change direction, promoting inclusive collaboration, resisting special interests and guarding against conflicts of interest, and using data in policymaking.

CT health reform grade

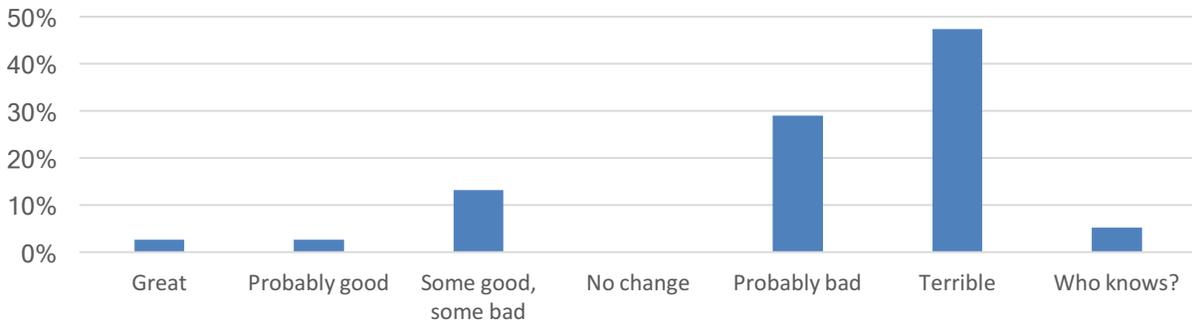


CT health reform grade for effort

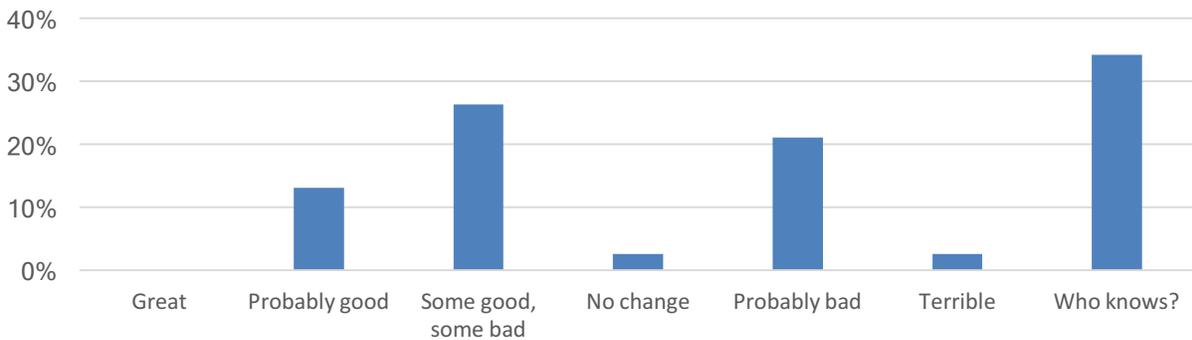




What has been the impact of federal changes at the executive and Congressional levels on Connecticut's health care environment?



What do you think the impact will be of the change in administration and potentially the legislature next year on Connecticut's health care environment?



Methodology Fifty-one thought leaders across Connecticut's health fields and sectors were surveyed online between December 4, 2017 and January 10, 2018. Forty-one (80%) responded. The invitation list was collected from membership of health-related state councils, board and committees, and leadership of health-related organizations. Respondents represented community organizations, foundations, providers, payers, consumer advocates, labor, media, business leaders, insurance brokers, and academics. To ensure independent responses, state officials responsible for reform were not surveyed.

What has been the impact of federal changes at the executive and Congressional levels on Connecticut's health care environment?
What is the greatest concern?
Changing the healthcare landscape for the worse, both in commercial market (due to efforts to destabilize exchanges, do away with individual mandate etc.) and in Medicaid (due the increasing deficits and likely cuts to programs like Medicaid). Not so versed in Medicare, so not rendering an opinion.
The state's continued funding of planning but not timely implementation
Uncertainty
Uncertainty, finances, executive sabotage
Paying providers an adequate rate to manage the Medicaid population's health and health care needs
Changes to Medicaid funding which could result in members losing coverage or a reduction in coverage
Regression on choice, access and resources
Loss of the individual mandate
Reduction in services to low income individuals and people with disabilities.
There are 2: a. protecting significant progress in Medicaid; b. Failure to restrain Rx, hospital and insurance monopoly prices
Future of ACA and Medicaid
Funding for health care reform, services for elderly and other vulnerable populations
Health insurance costs without individual mandate!
Loss of federal funding and support (legislation, administrators, etc.) for important programs, such as the expansion, ACA, and CHIP.
Block Grants
No one talks to each other about proactive ways to make things BETTER
Threat of Medicaid cuts or other federal changes that encourage bad decisions locally
Diminishing funds
Destruction of Medicaid as we know it
Backsliding through cutbacks to ACA, exchange
Cut backs and elimination of services under Medicaid and elimination of beneficiaries now covered. State program cuts due to lack of revenue.
Lack of CHIP and FQHC funding reauthorization
Viability of the exchange and the individual mandate.
tax plan removing individual mandate
Cost
That Medicaid will be block granted or have per capita caps imposed
Ability to access dental care is decreasing
Elimination of key components of ACA
State has significantly cut Medicaid over the last 3 years
Loss of eligibility for insurance
Decrease in the health of CT's residents
Greatest concern on the federal side is the lack of certainty on the future of CHIP and Medicaid funding (e.g., block grants?), as well as the Health Center Trust Fund

Uncertainty and misinformation
The halving of the eligibility standards for assistance. Tens of thousands of financially marginal people are going to suffer a great deal from this. Undoubtedly, there are many who will be adversely effected enough that they will die.
What is the greatest opportunity?
Utilizing the momentum that has been building of moving/pushing into a different direction in the country - improving ACA and/or going even bigger by working toward universal coverage that's high-quality and affordable.
Local level activities in the private sector
Consumer interest and energy is high
Momentum from failure to repeal ACA
To have one common database/electronic health record
Continue to improve quality outcomes for members
Revolution!
Broader incentives for population health
None.
Political will to deal with monopoly prices
Possible move towards universal coverage
Commitment to reform and pharmacy, work with the Health Care Cabinet
Community based care
Increase public awareness for gains made under ACA and expansion and longstanding Medicaid.
Securing the highest base year possible in preparation for block grants
Work together to identify two critical initiatives that, if focused on, could benefit all of the stakeholders...not just market segments looking out for their bottom lines
Seize flexibility in waiver system and integrated LTSS and Home and Community Based Services into our health delivery system
Working collaboratively
Anger at the current status quo
Push for Medicare For All/public option. It's the only real hope of major, sustained, significant changes.
Continued work on PCMH + program, if state funding remains in place.
State-based reform
Likely imposition of spending limits via actual or quasi capitation. There will be chaos until true CQI and practice reform occurs. The state vs places like Vermont not anywhere ready.
Funding CHIP
Cost control
To push back against ill-considered "payment reform" in the way of imposing financial risk on Medicaid providers.
Payment reform
Getting stakeholders to come together and solve the problems.
Become proactive in fixing PPACA by focusing on protecting Medicaid
Quality of care

To be a national leader ensuring CT residents have a right to healthcare
2018 and 2020 elections
SINGLE PAYER!

What do you think the impact will be of the change in administration next year and, potentially the legislature, on Connecticut's health care environment?
What is the greatest concern?
That the new administration/legislature would go backward on being proud of our public health care system and focus more on strengthening the commercial markets (whatever this may look like)
Lack of interest and funding
Leadership's understanding of the complicated issues regarding health care
Even more return to bad ideas that failed in the past
Wise management of the state's dollars/budget
State will do nothing
Provider taxes and Medicaid reimbursement
Rollback of Medicaid reforms, extreme pro-corporate administration
Lack of will to find revenue and properly fund health care
Reduction or elimination of health benefits and services
Potential reduction/stagnation regarding provider rates
Further cuts to essential programs without increasing revenue to mitigate cuts.
The new administration continues to take money from healthcare providers which results in extreme commercial insurance increases for employers, making CT more unattractive to businesses and individuals
Legislators have NO IDEA of the unintended consequences of their actions, they DO NOT see the big picture and how elements are linked to one another
THE BUDGET--Specifically, cuts to health and LTSS safety net services
Policy makers who can listen and act
Corporatization that limits access and cost
Unchecked private sector
Potential for Medicaid cuts
The State administrative and Legislative branches need to work jointly to craft a fair tax/revenue structure. We can't continue to cut every social welfare program and believe that children will be educated, jobs will grow and an educated workplace will be available without support basic social programs.
Major conservative shift leads to major funding & reimbursement sudden cuts.
A more conservative legislature
Need to elect a market reform candidate
Lack of commitment to the innovation of PCMHs in place of capitated MCOs in Medicaid.
Someone worse than current leadership
The unknown
The continued reduction of Medicaid funding to the most needy.
Disparity in the health outcomes of those in CT with lower incomes
State budget deficits as far as the eye can see

Having to start over
Proximately, I am concerned that the most fragile and vulnerable patients will not be able to access any continuity of care.
What is the greatest opportunity?
To push forward with strengthening the public market/Medicaid and rethink some of the concerning efforts like shared savings in Medicaid, or at least work to get data and use data to determine future actions.
New start, shift toward private and public partnership
Education of both leadership and consumers regarding the issues involved in health care
Optimism, turning over a new leaf, can we all come together and work honestly toward a solution
Look for ways to improve coverage particularly if there are negative changes at the federal level
Electing true progressives
Innovative partnerships
Deepening bipartisan commitment to state action on prices
Not sure
New administration could produce new initiatives/approaches
Reduction of institutional costs
Increase revenue.
Implementing policy and regulatory controls over drug pricing/costs
Have the CT Center for Nursing Workforce provide an overview of how accurate nursing data can begin to provide an understanding of how care is provided and by whom, in what settings and the need to insure we have a viable and robust nursing workforce to fill all the roles that are being created outside the hospital walls. The current "credentials" of our nurses may not align with what is needed. A nurse is not a nurse is not a nurse...Scope of Practice dictates what a nurse can do!
Innovation in service delivery, telemedicine, family caregiver supports and waiver flexibility
Electing new voices
The extent of greed messing things up
Increase in public options and urgency to protect public health
Insurance--common standards for value based measurements, and public reporting, like the UDS for health centers.
Re-structure a tax system that is equitable and will revive the State over the long term.
Thoughtful mix of cuts, practice reforms gradually, but unrelenting. Bet it won't happen.
New thinking in the Governor's office depending on election result
To instill competition to health care reform
Possibility that the new governor might have a greater commitment to protecting Medicaid.
Change
Focusing limited funds on the most needy and the most effective organizations that support them.
To be a national leader to overcome health disparities based upon access to care
Potentially a new commitment to health care for "more," but not optimistic
SINGLE PAYER!

What is your best advice to the next Governor?

Think of our state as a great one- and a great opportunity to sail the ship in a prosperous direction - for ALL of CT residents - and do so by listening to all stakeholders, and particularly independent advocates and people directly impacted by policy decisions.
Look to the health care professionals, patients and data to make meaningful decisions in health care reform
Take a deep breath, dive in and educate yourself before taking positions
Data, listen to and engage EVERYONE, show all your math/the foundations of your policies
Ask questions from all sectors that impact or influence health care
CT has an income problem, not a spending problem. Run the opposite way from federal policies
The healthcare sector is critical to the future of the state's economy. Do not punish it further.
Promote global budgeting for healthcare costs --bring EVERYONE to the table
Carefully consider priorities with attention to the needs of Connecticut citizens.
1. Do NOT give Medicaid back to the health insurance industry. 2. Ignore the lobbying money -- there is no limit to political upside in fighting health care corporations. 3. Invest heavily in staff/data infrastructure at agencies -- we lack the capacity to take advantage of statutory/regulatory language because infrastructure is weak. 4. Keep Rod Bremby if he'll stay.
Invest in CT. All of it and all of its residents.
Find ways to continue benefits for those who are most vulnerable
Find a way to authentically engage individuals and organizations knowledgeable about the issues!
Revenue, and prioritize healthcare access because everything else is stronger when residents are healthy
With respect to healthcare, the Healthcare Cabinet and Office of Healthcare Strategy are making excellent recommendations with respect to healthcare opportunities for CT - support and work to implement their recommendations.
Must engage in a LISTENING tour of statewide healthcare entities that have NO allegiance to providers.... this way they can begin to understand the entire landscape, not just a certain sector.
Be open minded to doing things differently, embrace a robust rebalancing effort to give folks more options to remain independent in the community; support family caregivers to make the health care system more seamless
Build shared efforts
Challenge the corporatization of health care
Create a public option- control drug prices
Make controlling drug costs a priority
Don't get absorbed in your power and GOVERN to do the "right thing" for state residents. Govern as if you were a one-time leader who wants to make the best of his/her opportunity to improve CT and not worry about re-election.
Let data drive decision making
Aside from abdicate early, don't cave to interest groups.
Raise new revenues
Avoid single payer; promote market competition
We tried using a risk model in Medicaid and it failed spectacularly for both consumers and the taxpayers, so don't go back to that failed model.
Consider what is best for the majority of state residents, not just the top 5%
Implement a state wide HIE

Organizational Accountability and Transparency; and Consumer (not consumer representatives) input should be the centerpieces of healthcare in CT.
Consider the consumer impact of proposed policy changes
A healthy population is a thriving and productive population
Be brave.
Understand and believe that health care is a right
We MUST make the investment now in the health of the citizens of CT in order to take the pressure off our budget in the future. We need a genuinely community based health structure with open access to all, independent dedicated case manager/facilitators for anyone who wants or needs them, improved extended hours of access to urgent (as opposed to emergency) care, improved medical transportation availability, home visit care that goes beyond merely taking vitals, and genuine behavioral health care that is concomitant with standard medical home follow through. I understand that this sounds like a huge cost, but I contend that once this structure is in effect, it will save enormous expense in ER "frequent flying" and mitigate the high costs of late stage treatment for a large variety of conditions.