

# Potential Impact of Extreme Events on the U.S. Health Insurance Industry

*presented by*

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June, 2008

# Summary

- ◆ Types of Extreme Events
- ◆ Modeling Extreme Events
  - Defining the Scenario
  - Impact on Providers
  - Impact on Insurers
  - Impact on Self Insurers
- ◆ Other Issues

# Types of Extreme Events

- ◆ Natural Disasters
  - Hurricanes, Earthquake, Tsunami
  - Pandemic, Fire, Heatwave
- ◆ Human
  - Terror
  - Bio-Terror
  - Environmental

# Scale

- ◆ Local, Regional, National
  - 2003 Rhode Island Nightclub Fire
  - Katrina
  - Pandemic
- ◆ Impact on Surge Capacity

# Vulnerable Populations

- ◆ Elderly & Poor
- ◆ Lack of Social Safety Net
- ◆ Cultural Differences

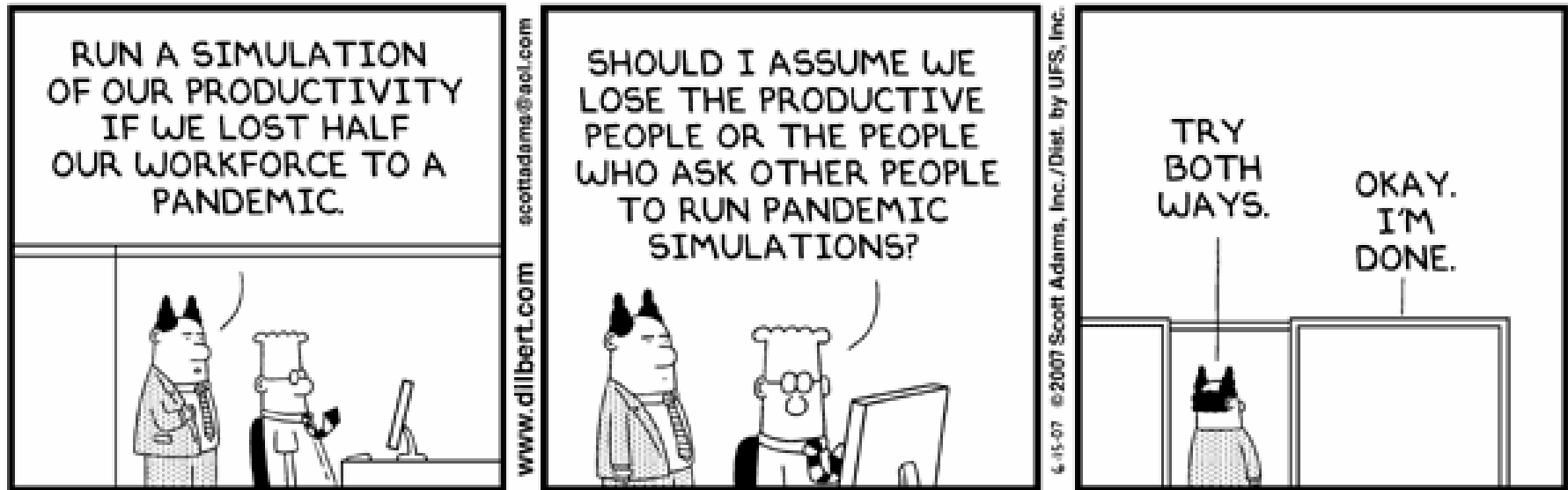
# *Modeling an Extreme Event*

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# Scope

- ◆ United States
- ◆ Private Payors
  - *Insured and Self-Insured*
- ◆ Medical Only
  - *No LTD, STD, LTC*
- ◆ Quantify Results
  - *Spreadsheet model*
  - *Scalable to company level*

# Modeling Approach



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# Modeling Approach

- ◆ How Many Covered Individuals Get Sick
- ◆ What Type of Care They Receive
  - Severity of Illness
  - Provider Capacity
- ◆ Estimate the Cost of Services
- ◆ Distribute Costs
- ◆ *Three Scenarios Contemplated*

# ***Pandemic Scenario Assumptions***

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# Pandemic Scenario Assumptions

- ◆ Morbidity
- ◆ Waves
- ◆ Mitigation and Intervention

# Morbidity

- ◆ Attack Rate: *How Many?*
- ◆ Severity: *Level of Care*
- ◆ Distribution by Age: *0 – 17, 18 – 64, 65+*
- ◆ Insured vs General Population: *Impact of Selection?*

# Levels of Care

- ◆ Three in the Literature
  - *Self - Care*
  - *Outpatient*
  - *Hospitalization*
- ◆ Distribution Varies by Scenario
- ◆ Additional Level Contemplated in Severe
  - *Alternative Care Facility (Overflow)*

# Waves and Surge Duration

## ◆ Waves

- Pandemics have different wave patterns
- Attack rate is sum of all waves

## ◆ Surge Duration

- Like waves, duration varies
- Will interact with system capacity
- Conservative (and simplifying) approach is to assume all in one year

# Mitigation and Intervention

- ◆ Delay Onset / Reduce Peak
- ◆ Mitigation
  - Individual, business and community preparation efforts
  - Challenge in quantifying impact
  - Tale of two cities: Philadelphia vs St Louis
- ◆ Intervention
  - Anti-virals & vaccines
  - Availability and effectiveness in question

# *Potential Impact on Providers*

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# Provider Landscape – Hospital

- ◆ Private Providers
  - Hospital Chains
  - HMOs
  - Urban vs Rural
  - Profit vs Not-For-Profit
- ◆ Public Providers
  - Department of Defense
  - Veterans Administration
  - Indian Health Service
  - Public/Municipal (Local)
- ◆ Alternative / Overflow

# Provider Assumptions – Hospital

- ◆ Capacity Constraints
  - Staffed Beds
  - Average Length of Stay
- ◆ Cost Estimate
  - Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)
  - SARS
  - Drug resistant pneumonia
  - Influenza
- ◆ Length of Stay Depends on Scenario
  - *Mid LOS may be longer, cost more than severe*

# Displacement

- ◆ Every \$1 spent on pandemic care crowds out elective care
- ◆ Conventional wisdom in a natural disaster is claims go down with little or no “make up”
  - Health infrastructure damaged
  - People busy surviving
- ◆ Pandemic tougher to pin down
  - CW is decrease in short term

# Hospital Cost

Max (Scenario Hospitalizations, Capacity)  
x Average Cost per Stay  
– Displacement

# Provider Landscape – Outpatient

- ◆ Primary Care
  - Private Practice
  - Physician Hospital Organizations
  - Capitated
  - Salaried
  
- ◆ Home Health Care
  - Nursing
  - Family

# Provider Assumptions - Outpatient

- ◆ Capacity Constraints
- ◆ Cost Estimate
  - Services Provided
  - “Worried Well” vs Sub-Acute
- ◆ Access by Payor Type

# Alternative Care Facilities – ACF

- ◆ Surge Capacity in Severe Scenario
- ◆ Every Locale Will Handle Differently
  - Nursing rather than acute care
  - Step down from hospital / convalescent
- ◆ No Precedent – *How to Model?*
  - Assume unbilled rejected by POG
  - Assume average bill between outpatient and hospital rate

# ***Potential Impact on Health Insurers***

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# Payor Landscape

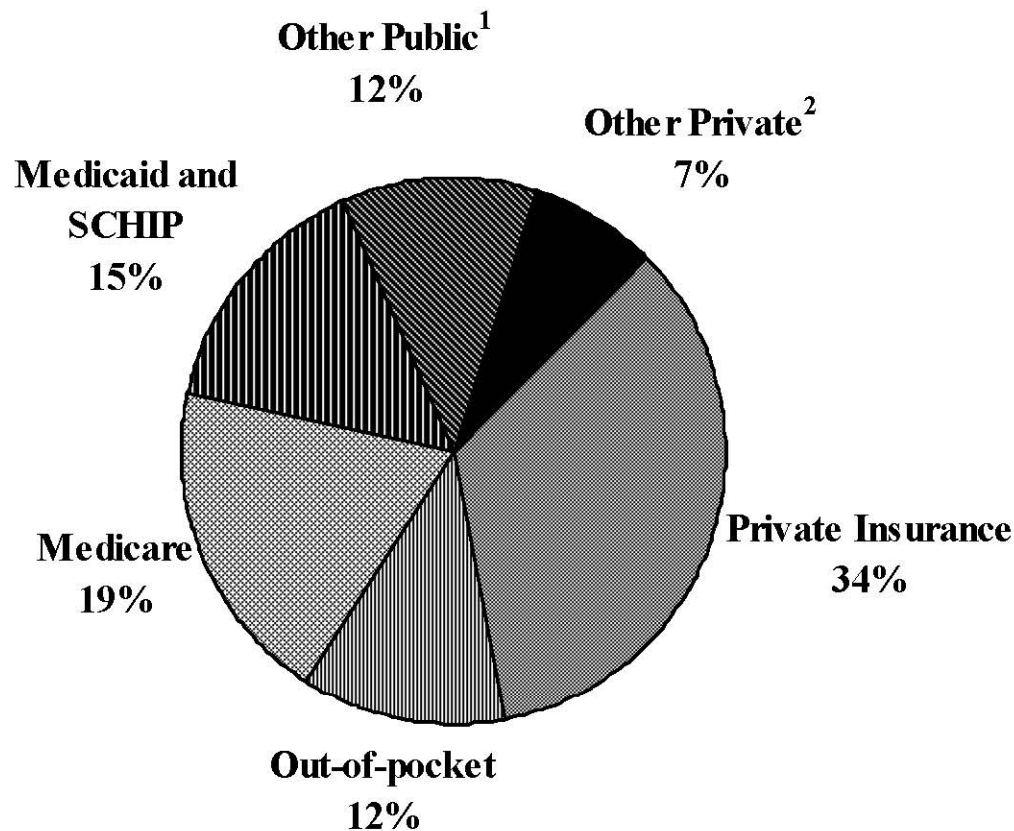
## ◆ Private Payors

- Fully Insured
- Advantage
- Self Insured
- MEWAs / PEOs
- Uninsured

## ◆ Public Payors

- Medicare / Medicaid
- Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB)
- Department of Defense
- Veterans Administration
- Indian Health Service

# The Nation's Health Dollar, Calendar Year 2006: Where it Came From



<sup>1</sup> Other Public includes programs such as workers' compensation, public health activity, Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, Indian Health Service, State and local hospital subsidies and school health.

<sup>2</sup> Other Private includes industrial in-plant, privately funded construction, and non-patient revenues, including philanthropy.

NOTE: Numbers shown may not add to 100.0 because of rounding.

SOURCE: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary, National Health Statistics Group.

# Privately Insured Assumptions

For Each of Major Medical, Advantage & Medigap:

- ◆ Insureds (Exposure)
  - Premium
  - Age Distribution
- ◆ Reserves
- ◆ Reinsurance
- ◆ Impact of Taxes
- ◆ Capacity (Surplus)

# Methodology

- ◆ Separate Hospitalization and Outpatient
- ◆ Quantify Based on
  - Pandemic Scenario
  - Selection & Mitigation
  - # of Covered Treatments (Access)
  - Treatment Cost Estimates
  - Line of Business Assumptions
- ◆ Variables, Vectors, and Multiplication

# “Inverse Elliptical Curve”

*Due to capacity constraints and sociological factors, a moderate pandemic may be more expensive to health insurers than a severe one*

# Other Considerations

- ◆ Cash Flow
  - Providers
  - Insurers
- ◆ Pricing and Reserving
  - IBNR
  - Adequacy
- ◆ Renewal Options
  - Will actuaries be able to sign off?
  - Will companies be able to pull out?
- ◆ Professional and Regulatory Implications

# Self- Insured Plans

- ◆ Attempt Similar Methodology
  - No annual statements
  - Reasonable data sources?
- ◆ Less rigorous approaches
  - “Sample” plan (10,000 lives) and gross up?
- ◆ Reinsurance more important consideration
- ◆ Self insurers need to understand extent of risk

# Why Self Insured Matters

- ◆ What is the Exposure of Business?
- ◆ Reinsurance Impact
  - Acute cost likely less than specific
  - Aggregate cover more on smaller groups
- ◆ ERM Double - Whammy
  - Business Continuity
  - Cash Flow Issues
  - Supply Chain



# *Industry Role in Planning & Preparing*

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# Insurance and Pandemic Planning

- ◆ Can't prevent a pandemic
  - Delay onset / reduce peak
  - Increases resources available
  - Beds, doctors, nurses, supplies
- ◆ Interests are aligned
  - Good risk management
- ◆ Governments strapped for resources
- ◆ Goodwill with stakeholders
  - *Customers and policymakers!!*

# Role of the Industry

- ◆ Part of system and vested in it
- ◆ How do insurers come out as good guys?
  - Partnership beforehand
  - Communication before, during and after
  - Think “investment” not “expense”
- ◆ Risk management is our competency
  - Opportunity to expand relationship
  - Added value services
- ◆ Partner with Communities, Hospitals, Businesses, and Individuals

# Industry Role - Communities

- ◆ Participate at local level; get your people involved
  - Health professionals into surge capacity pool
  - Others as leaders in community efforts
- ◆ Participate in planning and dress rehearsals
  - Simulations very helpful
- ◆ *Compare to industry's public health efforts at the turn of the century*
- ◆ Presumes preparatory efforts and some degree of competency on part of company

# Industry Role - Hospitals

- ◆ 12 - 18 month blizzard
  - Top 50 items a hospital needs and how much?
  - Where do you store it?
- ◆ World wide nursing shortage
  - Help build, track volunteer workforce
  - Ensure adequate personal protective equipment for surge force
- ◆ Billing and cash flow problems
  - “PIP” style interim payments?

# Industry Role - Businesses

- ◆ Help them prepare
- ◆ Communicate with employees
- ◆ Do they have special needs, considerations?
- ◆ What about self insured?
- ◆ Added value ERM consulting opportunity???

# Industry Role - Individuals

- ◆ Information before, during and after
  - Consistent, accurate messaging
- ◆ How to provide home health care
  - May be the most valuable intervention available
- ◆ Chronic disease recommendations
- ◆ Need 90 day supply of meds

# What will Recovery Look Like?

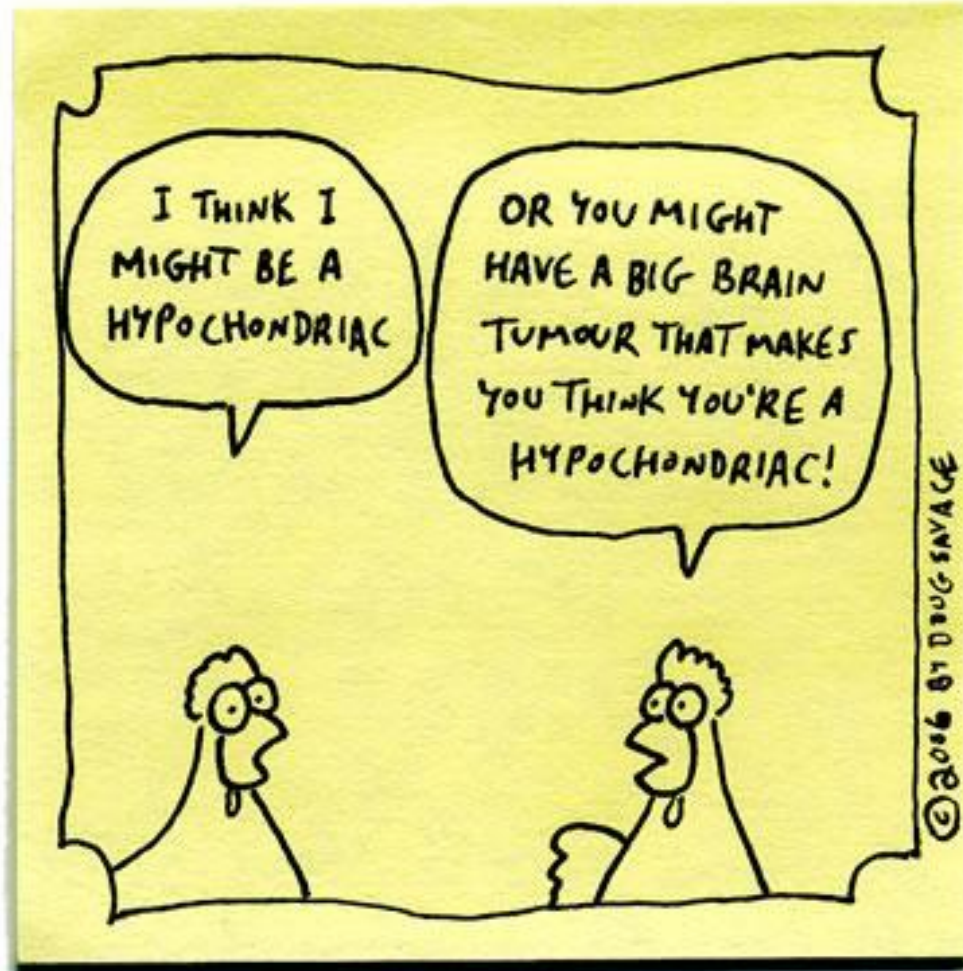
- ◆ Nothing comparable in modern era
  - Depression/dustbowl
  - Marshall Plan (but not infrastructure)
  - Great Society (but not a response to events)
- ◆ Civil governance challenges
  - What can we learn from Katrina?
- ◆ How will public view actors?
  - Government, providers, private insurers
  - If providers fail what will response be?
  - Further consolidation likely



# Questions / Comments

*Savage Chickens*

by Doug Savage



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