



Actuaries Weigh in on Challenges of U.S. Health Care System

Health care. It's a hot discussion topic in venues from Congress to the dinner table these days. As leading health care professionals, actuaries are sharing their perspectives on this important topic.

"With our expertise and rigorous training in risk management, insurance and longevity, actuaries are well-equipped to work with key stakeholders in finding a new viable solution for the challenging health care crisis," noted Jennifer Gillespie, FSA, MAAA, the chair of the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Health Section. This month's *ImageWatch* focuses on the perspectives that actuaries and other professionals bring to the discussion about the future of health care.

The SOA's Health Section recently asked actuaries, health care professionals and academics what they thought about the state of health care today. The responses are showcased in a series of essays titled, "Visions for the Future of the U.S. Health Care System."



Take a look to learn more about what these experts have to say about general health care reform, ways to pool risk within health care, the need for universal access to data and other thought-provoking topics.

You can access all 29 of the essays in the "Visions for the Future of the U.S. Health Care System" series by visiting www.soa.org/healthessays.

How Actuaries Have Turned Risk into Opportunity

Did you know that the first health insurance policies were offered by life insurance companies in the 1920s?

If you would like to learn more about this and other facts in the actuarial profession's history, visit the interactive [timeline](#) on ImageoftheActuary.org.

Pioneer - Sim Segal



"We actuaries can be far more involved than we are currently in decisions impacting society, like national health care, the global financial crisis, the green energy movement or even the forecasts involved in the government's annual budget process. If we have more actuaries thinking about the larger issues and how we can get involved, we will start to make more inroads."

Actuaries in the News

- [Is Longevity Insurance Right for You?](#) This May 1 article on *USNews.com* discusses longevity insurance with Anna Rappaport, FSA, MAAA, EA.
- [Life & Health Advisor](#) This May 1 article in *Lifehealth.com*, features Long Term Care consultant Claude Thau's, FSA, MAAA, evaluation of the independent review process and analysis of cost/benefit trade-offs for the industry and consumers.
- [Complex Processes Employed to Identify Emerging Risks](#) In this May 11 article, enterprise risk management experts discuss how to recognize the signs of emerging

risks.

- [Models Showed Financial Risks, But Execs Ignored Warnings: Experts](#) This May 11 article suggests that models functioned accurately at indicating financial risk, however not all of these results were heeded.
- [ERM Conference Attracts 400 to Chicago](#) This May 11 article highlights the Enterprise Risk Management symposium held recently in Chicago.
- [Companies Choosing Risk Management Status Quo](#) This May 14 article in *Insurancenetworking.com* discusses how economic challenges are causing companies to review their risk profiles and analyzes how risk-management decisions are being made.
- [ERM Support Still Soft, SOA Survey Finds](#) This May 18 article in *National Underwriter Property & Casualty* provides findings from a survey of the 2009 Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Symposium attendees. The survey findings indicate that a majority of companies have not increased support for their ERM programs
- [What Businesses Can Do About Swine Flu](#) The May 21 article on *MSN.com* discusses disaster planning for companies and offers tips to help organizations stay on top of crisis situations like the recent Swine Flu virus.
- [Keeping a Longer-term Perspective in a Shaky Environment](#) This May 21 article on *PRODUCERSWEB.com*, by Mike Boot, FSA, MAAA, FCA, explores applying the concept of mean reversion to understand our current economy.
- [Inflation's Burden on Seniors](#) This May 21 article in *MercuryNews.com* offers solutions to the problems faced by older Americans who feel squeezed by the ever-rising cost of living.
- [Personal finance: Tips Help Buyers Evaluate Long-term Care Insurance](#) This May 31 article published on *TheColoradoan.com* uses life expectancy calculations provided by the SOA to discuss long-term care insurance.
- [Retire Debt-Free](#) This June 2 article on *Philly.com* talks about the four things everyone should consider about retirement and debt.