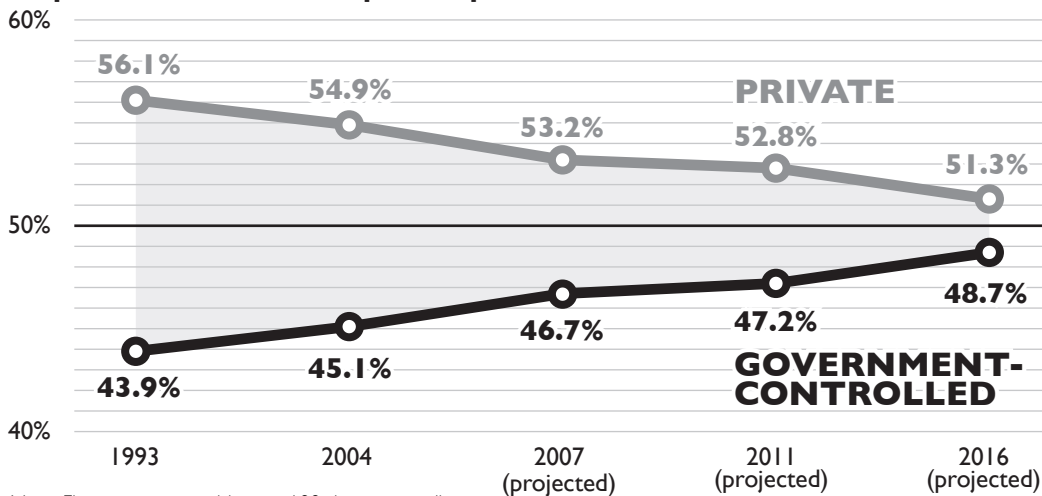


U.S. on collision course to 'socialized medicine'

Government is picking up more and more of America's medical bills. And the bills get bigger each year. Total spending on personal health will nearly double over the next eight years, to more than \$4 trillion. At that point, government programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP will account for about half of all health spending — and overburdened taxpayers will be less free to choose superior private insurance for their families.

Proportions of total funds spent on personal health



Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Office of the Actuary

The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org)