1. What companies make up the health insurance shared monopoly: Wellpoint/Anthem, Cigna, Aetna, Humana, United Health Care

2. Why is the insurance industry excluded from Sherman Anti-Trust Act?

a. McCarran-Fitzgerald Act excluded the insurance industry from Sherman Anti-Trust Act (1944) and in 1980 an Amendment to Federal Trade Act the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) was prohibited from investigating or reporting on the activities of insurance industry. States regulate the insurance industry.

b. In 2007 attempts to repeal McCarran-Fitzgerald failed as insurance industry spent $40 million in campaign financing.

3. State regulation of the insurance industry has the same problems that all regulatory agencies do: revolving door, limits on regulatory power, limits on funding etc.

4. Why will approx 21 million still be excluded from health care if buying health care is mandatory?

a. millions will “opt out” and pay the fine because the fine will be significantly less than the cost of health care.

b. millions will be excluded from having to buy health care on the grounds that it is “unaffordable.” This means that health insurance will cost them more than 8% of their household income. (This is despite government subsidies)

c. Medicaid will be expanded to cover 16 million more people but not all will register (and the program is under funded, only 60% of doctors accept Medicaid patients).

d. Falling through the cracks: homeless, transient populations.