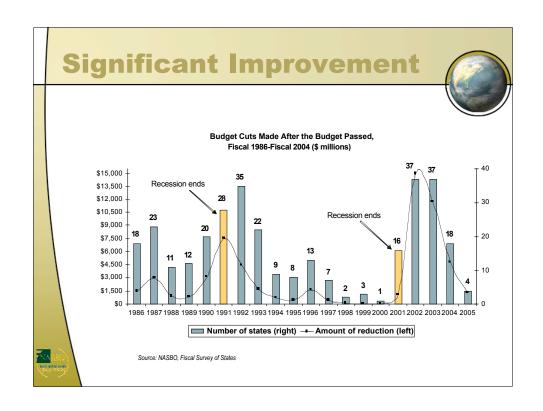
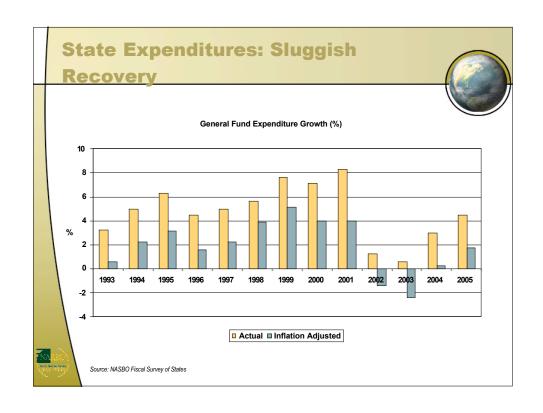


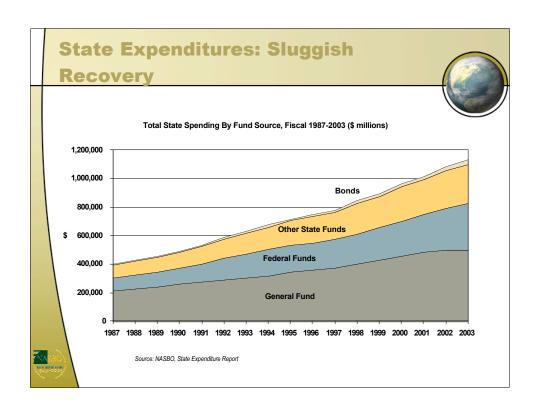
The Current Fiscal Situation

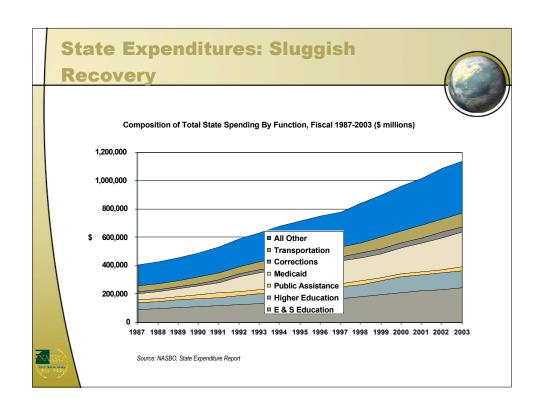
- Gradual recovery after three <u>very</u> difficult fiscal years for almost all states
- Most states reporting improvement in revenues over projected
- State budgets face expenditure pressure in FY'06 and beyond



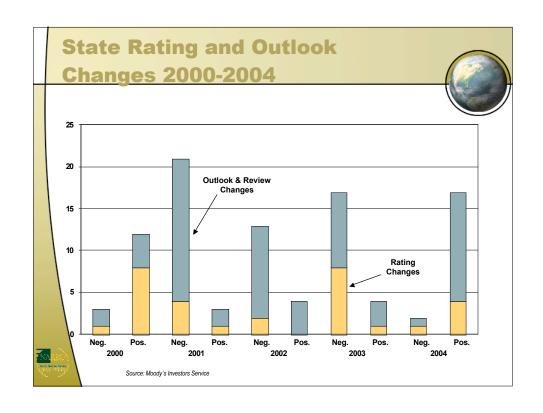


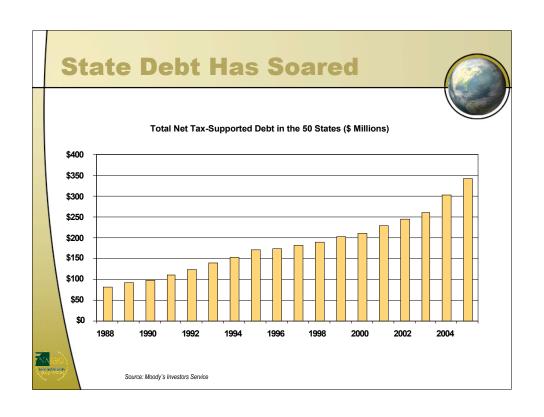














Spending Pressures

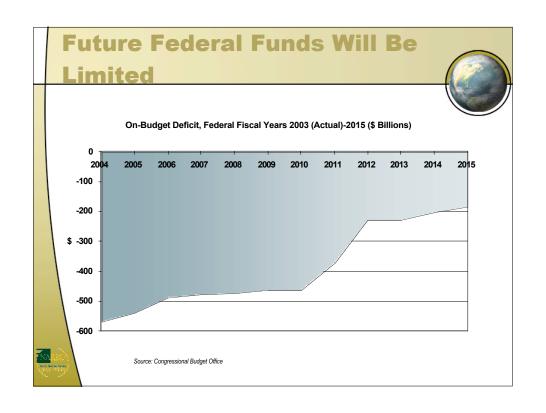


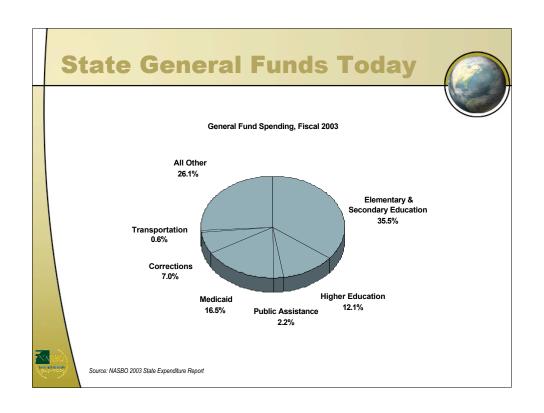
Competing Fiscal Pressures

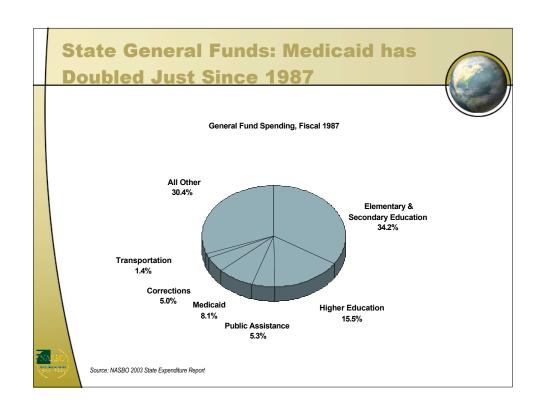


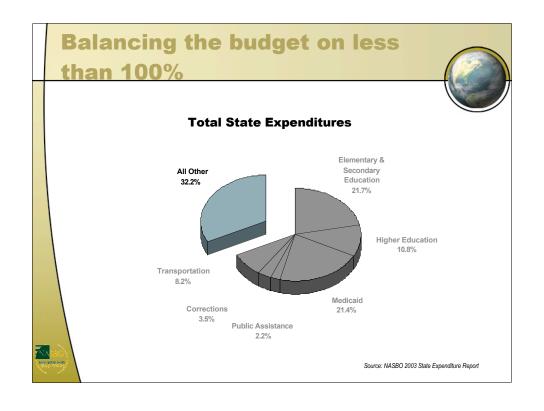
- Medicaid and Health Care
- K-12 Increases
- Demographic Changes
- Infrastructure

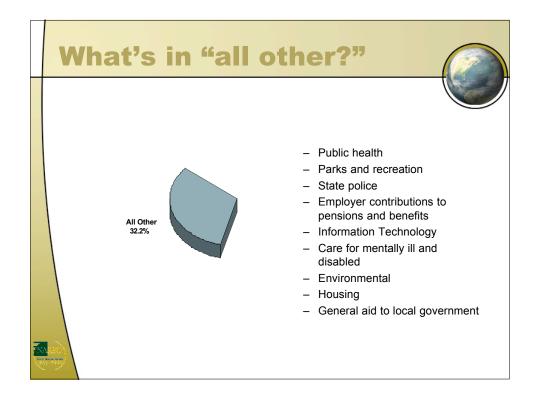


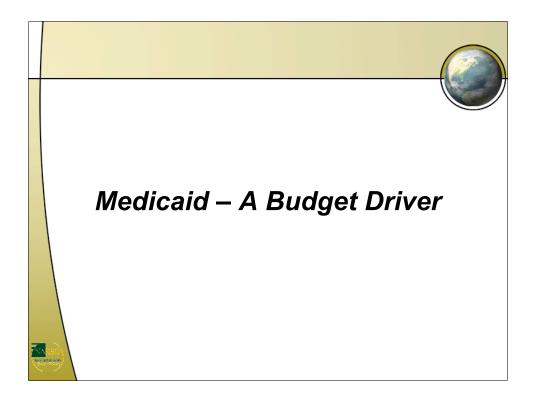










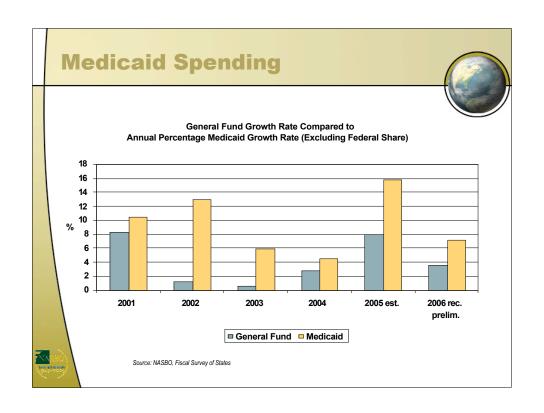


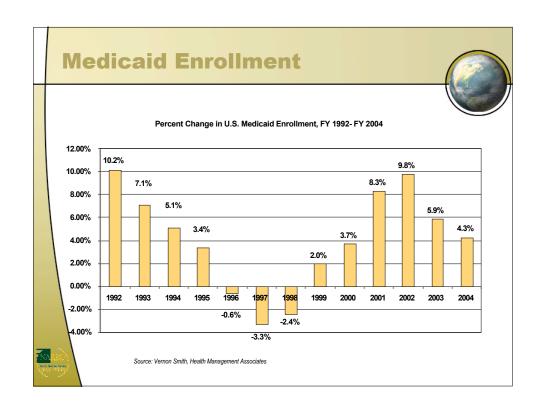


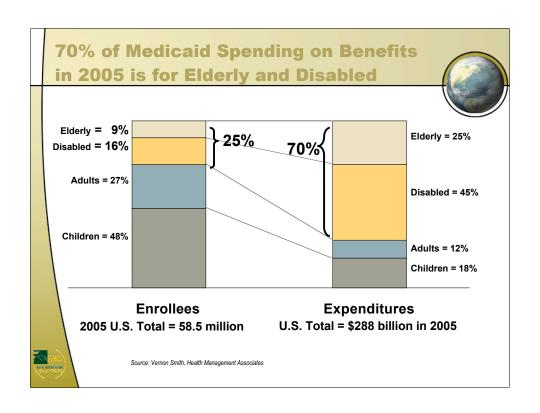
"I am a... liberal Democrat, but we can't sustain the current Medicaid program. It's fiscal madness. It doesn't guarantee good care, and it's a budget buster."

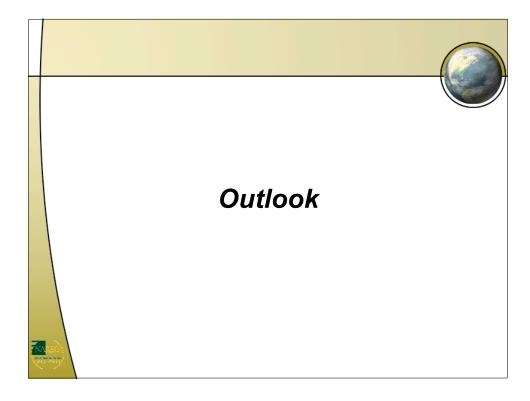
-- John Hurson, President, NCSL and Delegate, Maryland











Strengths

- Employment/Consumer spending good, sustainable
- Revenue growth strong
- · Credit ratings improving
- State liquidity good



Risks



- Decreased federal funding
- Energy prices/inflation
- OPEB
- Possible housing bubble
- Health care costs



Competing Fiscal Pressures



- Medicaid and Health Care
- K-12 Increases
- Demographic Changes
- Infrastructure



The Next Ten Years



- Cyclical Revenue
- Less Federal Monies
- Tough Competition for State General Funds
- Budget Drivers
 - K-12
 - Medicaid and Health Care



