



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



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State Health Access Reform Evaluation

Grant Award Information

share 2014

Grant Award Information

The State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE) is a National Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) created in 2006 to support the evaluation of health policy reform at the state level and develop an evidence-based resource to inform health reform efforts in the future. The grant program is administered by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC), housed within the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health. Lynn Blewett, PhD, Principal Investigator of SHADAC and Professor in the Division of Health Policy and Management, leads the program.

SHARE has the following key goals:

1. Coordinate evaluations of state reform efforts in a way that establishes a body of evidence to inform state and national policy makers on the mechanisms required for successful state health reform;
2. Identify and address gaps in research on state health reform activities from a state policy perspective;
3. Disseminate findings in a manner that is meaningful and user-friendly for state and national policy makers, state agencies, and researchers alike.

SHARE has awarded 43 grants since its inception. The first round of SHARE funding was awarded in 2008, at which time the program funded 16 studies examining a range of state reform topics such as the impacts of expanding eligibility guidelines for young adult dependent coverage; the differential coverage impacts seen under reforms of varying scope; and the crowd-out impacts of public program enrollment and eligibility simplifications.

The second round of SHARE funding was awarded in 2010 after the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Eight projects covered topics including the ACA's new income definition for Medicaid (modified adjusted gross income, or MAGI; the impact of the ACA on rural areas; and the income dynamics and characteristics of low- and moderate-income adults impacted by the ACA. SHARE awarded a third round of new grants in 2012, funding nine projects that continued to focus largely on implementation and evaluation of the ACA from a state perspective, exploring such topics as the utilization impact of insuring childless adults; the size and characteristics of the rural population likely to be eligible for expanded Medicaid; and the production of reliable state and local estimates of insurance coverage expansion populations and corresponding workforce capacity.

Most recently, SHARE awarded ten new grants in 2014. The following document provides an overview of these grants, which range in length from 12 to 18 months and will offer timely insights on health reform issues and the early impacts of the ACA on coverage, health care utilization and affordability.

For more information about SHARE, please visit the SHARE website: www.shadac.org/share or call 612-624-4802.



Technical support for the work of SHARE grantees is provided by the University of Minnesota's **State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC)**.

SHADAC is an independent health policy research center whose faculty and staff are recognized as national experts on the collection and use of health policy data to inform state health policy decisions relating to health insurance coverage and access to care.

For information about SHADAC, visit www.shadac.org or call 612-624-4802



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STUDY DESCRIPTIONS: 2014 Grant Awards

Coverage, Access and Health Effects of the ACA Medicaid Expansion

Institution: RAND Corporation

Principal Investigator: Michael Dworsky, PhD

This project will inform policy-makers about the costs and benefits of implementing an expansion of the Medicaid program. Using data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) and state geocodes, the researchers will evaluate how a state's decision to expand or not expand Medicaid affects (1) insurance coverage; (2) access to care and patterns of care-seeking behavior; and (3) health status, including mental health.

Early Evidence on Employment Responses to the Affordable Care Act

Institution: Indiana University

Principal Investigator: Anne B. Royalty, PhD

This project will provide policy-makers with evidence about how the ACA is affecting labor markets and how states could make policy changes to improve job-related outcomes. The researchers will use data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey-Insurance Component (MEPS-IC) to analyze the impact of various ACA provisions on employment-related outcomes during the first year of full implementation and how these impacts vary with the policies and marketplace structures in place across the states. Using MEPS-IC data for 2010-2014 in combination with state-level data from other sources describing health insurance marketplaces, insurance regulation, and Medicaid expansion, the researchers will model private employers' insurance offerings as a function of state policies and how well a state's marketplace is operating. The researchers will also model employers' full- versus part-time distribution of workers as a function of state policies and other factors.

The Effect of the ACA Medicaid Expansion on Safety Net Hospital Utilization

Institution: Virginia Commonwealth University

Principal Investigator: Peter Cunningham, PhD

This project will help policy-makers understand the extent to which utilization of safety net hospitals has changed in response to the ACA coverage expansion. The researchers will examine the impact of California's early Medicaid expansion on inpatient and emergency department utilization at safety net hospitals using data from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). The researchers will use a difference-in-differences analysis to compare changes in safety net hospital utilization in California with changes in utilization in three neighboring states (Arizona, Nevada, and Washington) that did not expand Medicaid prior to 2014. The researchers will also examine differences in the extent of changes in hospital utilization in California by type of safety net hospital; the extent of the eligibility expansion in each county; and changes in the number and percent uninsured in the county between 2010 and 2013.

The Effect of Affordable Care Act Reforms on Specialty Drug Coverage: A State-by-State Comparison

Institution: RAND Corporation

Principal Investigator: Erin Taylor, PhD

This project aims to inform federal and state policy-makers seeking to assure access to affordable care for patients who use specialty drugs. The researchers will use publicly available data from the health insurance marketplaces to compare and contrast specialty drug coverage across the states, and they will analyze the impact of the marketplaces by comparing specialty drug coverage in the marketplaces with what is available through other plans such as those offered by Medicare Part D. Finally, using data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), they will model the impacts of coverage characteristics on the affordability of care for marketplace enrollees at risk for high medical spending.

The Effect of Public Health Insurance on the Hospital Industry

Institution: Columbia University

Principal Investigator: Tal Gross, PhD

This project aims to inform policy-makers about strategies for regulating hospitals following health reform by studying how a reduction in the uninsured affects hospital uncompensated care. The researchers will first complete a descriptive analysis that measures the associations between the size of a state's uninsured population, the share of state residents that are foreign born, the state's unemployment rate, and the uncompensated care provided by the state's hospitals. The researchers will then explore two large Medicaid disenrollments in Tennessee and Missouri--policy changes that were like the ACA's Medicaid expansion in reverse. The researchers will use a difference-in-differences approach to isolate the effect of the Medicaid disenrollments on hospitals' uncompensated care costs in those states. The researchers will quantify the increase in uncompensated care relative to the number of people who lost coverage and compare this number to the descriptive analyses. They will then multiply their estimates by the ACA's predicted change in coverage rates across the country to predict the change in uncompensated care driven by the ACA.

Geographic Variation in ACA-Related Media Messages and Health Insurance Enrollment

Institution: University of Minnesota

Principal Investigator: Sarah Gollust, PhD

This project will inform the evidence base on the effectiveness of outreach and media strategies related to ACA access expansions. In collaboration with the Wesleyan Media Project, the researchers will (1) document geographic variation in the volume and tone of televised media messages about ACA implementation across U.S. media markets from October 2013 to March 2014; (2) test associations between the volume and tone of media messages and the public's Internet search behaviors about health insurance enrollment; and (3) examine relationships between the volume and tone of media messages and changes in insurance enrollment from 2013 to 2014.

Making ACA Coverage a Reality – A National Examination of Provider Network Monitoring Practices by States and Health Plans

Institution: Health Management Associates

Principal Investigator: Karen Brodsky, MHS

This project will improve the ability of states to track and enforce provider network access compliance, as well as the ability of health plans to maintain good network access and to demonstrate their compliance to states. The researchers will develop and conduct two online surveys to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the provider network monitoring activities of state departments of insurance, Medicaid agencies, marketplace plans, and Medicaid plans. One survey will inquire about the current measures, standards, and practices that states use to monitor the provider networks of qualified health plans (QHPs) and Medicaid managed care organizations (MMCOs), and about common barriers to collecting and analyzing provider network information. The second survey will inquire about the current measures, standards, and practices used by QHPs and MMCOs in submitting network information to states and about challenges that plans face in completing this work. Following the online surveys, the researchers will develop a follow-up telephone survey for a subset of respondents to obtain additional insights into the barriers and opportunities related to their network monitoring and reporting activities.

Pent-Up Health Care Demand after the ACA: Does It Exist and Will It Go Away?

Institution: Medica Research Institute

Principal Investigator: Angela Fertig, PhD

This project aims to inform state agencies, insurers, and providers about the long-term costs and health care needs of the newly insured. The researchers will use enrollment and claims data from Medica, a regional health plan in Minnesota with 1.5 million members, to examine health care utilization among newly enrolled members of private individual and family plans in Minnesota's marketplace and in the state's Medicaid program. The analysis will determine whether there is evidence of pent-up demand among new members and, if so, whether the high level of demand subsides or persists over time.

Trends in California Physicians' Participation in Medicaid

Institution: University of California, San Francisco

Principal Investigator: Andrew Bindman, MD

The goal of this project is to inform state and federal policy-makers as they evaluate the impact of the ACA's Medicaid expansion and consider strategies aimed at increasing physician participation in Medicaid. In collaboration with the California Medical Board, the researchers will administer surveys on Medicaid participation to California physicians whose licenses are due for renewal in June and July of 2015. Survey questions will be identical to those included in a previous survey administered by the research team in 2011 and 2013, with the addition of new questions about California Medicaid beneficiaries' access to physicians. The researchers will compare results from the 2015 survey to results from the earlier surveys, analyzing trends across all physicians, as well as among a cohort that completed the survey in all three years.

Understanding Consumer Choice Dynamics in the ACA State Marketplaces

Institution: Harvard School of Public Health

Principal Investigator: Anna Sinaiko, PhD

The goal of this study is to inform state and federal policy-makers involved in the design and operation of the ACA marketplaces on ways to refine and update the functionality and structure of the marketplace design to help consumers choose high-value plans. The researchers will survey enrollees in individual or family plans purchased through two state-based marketplaces: one that has taken an active purchaser approach to design (Connecticut) and one that is operating as a clearinghouse of all qualified plans (Washington State). This research seeks to understand the decision-making processes and the factors considered in individual and family plan choices, and how health plan choice dynamics and enrollment outcomes are affected by the ACA marketplace design (also referred to as "choice architecture") and enrollee characteristics.



Findings from SHARE studies are released primarily in policy-relevant briefs and webinars targeted at state and national officials. These products present findings in a user-friendly manner that highlights their relevance to broader policy debates. Visit our website to view these and other resources such as in-depth reports and peer-reviewed journal articles, or join the SHARE e-mail list at our home page (www.shadac.org/share) in order to be notified when these items are available.

2012 Grant Awards

Achieving the Triple Aim in Medicaid: Evaluating the Access, Quality, Health and Cost Impacts of Coordinated Care Organizations in Oregon

Institution: Office of Oregon Health Policy and Research

Principal Investigator: Jeanene Smith, MD, MPH

Behavioral Health and Care for Chronic Medical Conditions in Pennsylvania: The Role of the Medical Home

Institution: University of Pennsylvania

Principal Investigator: Karin Rhodes, MD, MS

Informing Medicaid Program Design for Low-Income Childless Adults: The Promise of Self-Reported Health Measures

Institution: University of Illinois at Chicago

Principal Investigator: Lindsey Leininger, PhD, MA

Innovative Benefit Design for CT State Employees

Institution: University of Michigan

Principal Investigator: Richard Hirth, PhD, MA

Medical Homes Measures in Household Survey Data: State-Level Estimates Using Alternative Methodological Approaches

Institution: Urban Institute

Principal Investigator: Lisa Clemans-Cope, PhD

2010 Grant Awards

Developing a Monitoring Strategy for Health Reform's Progress and Effects

Institution: George Mason University

Principal Investigator: Len Nichols, PhD, MS, MA

Planning for ACA Coverage Expansion: How Insurance Coverage for Childless Adults Will Affect Utilization

Institution: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Principal Investigator: Tom DeLeire, PhD

Rural Implementation and Impact of Medicaid Expansions

Institution: University of Southern Maine

Principal Investigator: Andrew Coburn, PhD, EdM

Small-Area Microsimulation to Study Geographic Variation in Coverage Expansions and Access under the Affordable Care Act

Institution: Vanderbilt University

Principal Investigator: John Graves, PhD

Understanding Health Insurance and Policy Using Massachusetts Health Reform

Grantee Institution: Yale University

Principal Investigator: Amanda Kowalski, PhD

Eligibility Determination Using Modified Adjusted Gross Income: Implications for Enrollment under Health Reform

Institution: Mathematica Policy Research

Principal Investigator: John Czajka, PhD

2010 Grant Awards *(continued)*

Evaluation of State & Federal Young Adult Dependent Coverage Expansion Policies

Institution: Rutgers University

Principal Investigator: Joel C. Cantor, ScD

Expanding Coverage and Ensuring Access: The Challenges and Opportunities of Implementing Health Reform in Rural America

Institution: University of Southern Maine

Principal Investigator: Andrew Coburn, PhD, EdM

Implications and Options for State-Funded Programs under Health Reform

Institution: Health Management Associates

Principal Investigator: Theresa Sachs

2008 Grant Awards

Evaluation of Risk Selection in Market-Based State Programs

Institution: Mathematica Policy Research

Principal Investigator: Deborah Chollet, PhD

Evaluation of Three States' Reforms to Cover All Children

Institution: UCLA

Principal Investigator: José Escarce, MD, PhD

How Affordable Are State Coverage Plans?

Institution: University of Southern Maine

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Kilbreth, PhD

Effect of Medicaid Reform on Access to Care, Program Sustainability, and Administrative Efficiency in Kentucky and Idaho

Institution: Urban Institute

Principal Investigator: Genevieve Kenney, PhD

Income Dynamics and Characteristics of Health Reform Expansion Populations

Institution: Williams College

Principal Investigator: Lara Shore-Sheppard, PhD, MA

Strategies for Moving the SNACC Project to the Next Level: Leveraging SNACC Data for Policy and Evaluation

Institution: N.O.R.C. at the University of Chicago

Principal Investigator: Mike O'Grady, PhD

Using Behavior Nudges to Improve Disease Management: Cost-Effective Strategies for Improving Care for Low-Income Diabetics

Institution: Harvard University

Principal Investigator: Kate Baicker, PhD

Achieving Universal Coverage through Comprehensive Health Reform: The Vermont Experience

Institution: University of New England

Principal Investigator: Ronald D. Deprez, PhD, MPH

Evaluation of Extending Dependent Coverage to Young Adults

Institution: Rutgers University

Principal Investigator: Joel C. Cantor, ScD

An Evaluation of the Impacts of State Health Reform Initiatives in IL, MA, and NY

Institution: Urban Institute

Principal Investigator: Sharon K. Long, PhD

Incremental Strategies to Cover Low-Income Uninsured Adults

Institution: Johns Hopkins University

Principal Investigator: Lisa Dubay, PhD, ScM

2008 Grant Awards *(continued)*

Sheltering Employee Premium Contributions from Tax Using “Section 125 Plans”

Institution: Wake Forest University

Principal Investigator: Mark Hall, JD

Evaluating the Implementation of the Rhode Island HealthPact Plans and the Design and Implementation of Rhode Island’s Global Waiver

Institution: Brown University

Principal Investigator: Vincent Mor, PhD

Evaluating Wisconsin’s BadgerCare Plus Reform Package

Institution: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Principal Investigator: Thomas Oliver, PhD

Assessing the First Use of Auto-Enrollment for a State Coverage Expansion

Institution: Urban Institute

Principal Investigator: Stan Dorn, JD

Evaluating Small Group Employer Participation in New Mexico’s SCI Program

Institution: New Mexico Human Service Department

Principal Investigator: Cynthia Boddie-Willis, MD, MPH

Evaluating the Impact of Outreach and Enrollment Strategies in California

Institution: University of Southern California

Principal Investigator: Michael R. Cousineau, DrPH

Evaluation of 12-Month Continuous Eligibility in Medicaid

Institution: UCLA

Principal Investigator: E. Richard Brown, PhD

Maryland Kids First Act Outreach Evaluation

Institution: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Principal Investigator: David Idala, MA



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