



State Health Access Data Assistance Center

Electronic Newsletter – August 6, 2007

Announcements

State Reform Evaluation Call for Proposals

The State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE) program issued a call for proposals today to support research and evaluation of state reform initiatives that focus on health insurance access. This solicitation is part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's efforts to increase health care coverage and to systematically evaluate state-level health reform efforts. SHADAC is managing the solicitation in its role as the National Program Office for the SHARE initiative. Large-scale grants of up to \$600,000 and small grants of up to \$200,000, totaling \$5.4 million will be awarded through a call for proposals.

Details on timeline and funding priorities are available at the SHARE website: www.staterformevaluation.org

CPS Data Release

The release date for the 2006 Current Population Survey (CPS) state-by-state estimates of health insurance coverage is August 28, 2007 as part of the Census Bureau's report, "Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2006." SHADAC will host its annual conference call with Chuck Nelson, Assistant Division Chief for Income, Poverty and Health Statistics in the U.S. Census Bureau's Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. The call will focus on the major findings and measurement issues at 1:00 p.m. EDT on August 29, 2007. Information on registering for this call will be emailed in mid-August and call highlights will be available on the SHADAC website: <http://www.shadac.umn.edu/shadac/cps.html>

Integrated Health Interview Series (IHIS) Data Released

The Integrated Health Interview Series (IHIS) announced the second public data release on June 25, 2007. The IHIS is a harmonized set of data and documentation based on the public use files of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), the richest source of data on health and health care for the U.S. population for the period from 1963 to the present. IHIS includes over 800 integrated variables, and all data are distributed free of charge over the Internet at www.ihis.us. IHIS is a five-year NICHD-funded collaboration of SHADAC in the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and the Minnesota Population Center, a University-wide interdisciplinary cooperative for demographic research.

Presentations

SHADAC Researchers Present at Joint Statistical Meetings

Drs. Davern and Call participated in the Joint Statistical Meetings of the American Statistical Association in Salt Lake City, Utah on July 29-31. Mike Davern led a session titled, "Opportunities and Challenges of Integrated Data Sets to Serve Policy Research: The Medicaid Undercount Study." Kathleen Thiede Call presented "How Surveys Differ in the Quality of Reported Medicaid Enrolment: State Surveys and the CPS."

Medicaid Undercount Results Presented

Drs. Davern, Call and Blewett led a meeting to showcase results from SHADAC's project examining the Medicaid Undercount in the CPS held July 17, 2007 at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. This day-long conference included a discussion of the preliminary results of collaborative research to explain why discrepancies exist between CPS estimates of Medicaid enrollment and the number of enrollees reported in state and national administrative data. This project is a collaboration between SHADAC, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and the U.S. Census Bureau. The meeting was attended by about 60 analysts representing several federal and state health research agencies.

International Forum on Innovation in Health Care

Lynn Blewett moderated two panel sessions at "Healthcare and Innovation — A Transatlantic Experts' Roundtable," held July 16, 2007 at the University of Minnesota. This forum was sponsored by the Center for German and European Studies at the University of Minnesota. Her sessions were on the topic of Healthcare Systems and Innovation—Policy Perspectives in the United States and Germany, and included expert panelists Ulla Schmidt, Minister of Health, Federal Republic of Germany, former Minnesota Attorney General Hubert "Skip" Humphrey III, State of Minnesota Commissioner Cal Ludeman and others representing government, business, insurance, health care provider and health educators. Complete program information is available at: <http://www.cges.umn.edu/outreach/healthcare.htm>

State Health Reform Overview Provided to Legislative Commission

Lynn Blewett was a featured presenter for the Minnesota Legislative Commission on Health Care Access. On July 11 she presented an overview of reform initiatives in other states. She followed up with another presentation, "Financing Maine's Dirigo Health Plan," on July 25 to the Cost Containment Workgroup of this commission.

News from the States

Minnesota: 2007 Health Access Survey Underway

Data collection for the 2007 Minnesota Health Access Survey began in July. This survey represents a collaborative effort between the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and SHADAC at the University of Minnesota. Although this survey has been conducted five times since 1990, this represents the first year the survey is funded solely by state funds. State funding to conduct the survey every two years passed in this year's legislature, acknowledging the value of the survey for monitoring trends in health insurance coverage trends and the impact of state health policy. The MDH summary of 2007 HHS Omnibus Bill is available at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/opa/07legsumm.pdf>

California: Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance Declining

The Center for Health Policy Research at UCLA reports erosion of the employer-sponsored insurance (ESI) among the state's non-elderly population despite the states' strong economic recovery. Based on the 2005 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), the low- and moderate-income residents are most severely affected by the decline in ESI due to the lack of access to affordable health insurance.

The full report is available at: http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/SHIC_RT_071107.pdf

Other News:

State-level Uninsurance Rates for Children

The Annie E. Casey Foundation released state-specific uninsurance rates for children under age 17.

The KIDS COUNT data can be viewed or downloaded at: http://www.kidscount.org/sld/compare_results.jsp?i=110

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey-Insurance Component (MEPS-IC) 2005 Data Released

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) announced the release of MEPS-IC data for 2005. MEPS-IC provides state-level data on the type of health insurance plans, benefits, contributions, eligibility requirements for employees in the public and private sector. The data are available at:

http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/quick_tables_search.jsp?component=2&subcomponent=2

State Scorecard on Health System Performance

The Commonwealth Fund recently released an interactive state scorecard: "Aiming Higher: Results from a State Scorecard on Health System Performance." The scorecard assesses state performance on dimensions such as access, quality, equity, and healthy lives. See how your state measures up at:

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/statescorecard/>

Discussion on Immigrant Health Issues

SHADAC Research Fellow Nitika Malik interviewed Dr. Katherine Fennelly, Professor in the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, on health issues and related challenges facing Minnesota's immigrant communities. This show was aired on Minnesota TPT channel 17 on July 29, 2007.