

Announcements

Health Care Consumer Confidence Index Released

The new Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Care Consumer Confidence Index, developed in conjunction with researchers at SHADAC, was released on June 18. The Index provides an indicator of the health access concerns of the American people, including recent health care barriers and concerns for the future, such as worries about losing insurance coverage or being able to pay for health care expenses. This Index, to be released monthly, is expected to provide a unique perspective on consumer sentiment as federal health reform discussion/legislation evolves. The RWJF Index, methodology and results are available at www.rwjf.org/confidence.

MEPS-IC Tables Released

AHRQ has released the 2008 MEPS Insurance Component tables, available on the MEPS Website. 2008 is the first year in which AHRQ collected the current year's data instead of data for the prior year. As a result of this, the 2008 estimates are being provided a full year earlier than they would have been otherwise. Unfortunately, this means that data were not collected for 2007. According to Jim Branscome at AHRQ, "We hope that providing the 2008 data a full year earlier than what would have been otherwise possible will make up for the inconvenience of not having data for 2007. If any of you have to have 2007 estimates, my suggestion is to make a straight-line interpolation between the 2006 and 2008 estimates." Here is a direct link to the Table Search page on the MEPS Web site:
http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/quick_tables_search.jsp?component=2&subcomponent=2

CPS Data Release Schedule for September 10

The Current Population Survey (CPS) income, poverty and health insurance estimates are scheduled for release on September 10, 2009. Note that this is about a week later than in the past few years, and falls after the Labor Day holiday. Unlike in previous years, the 2008 report will not include the table of state health insurance estimates. Instead, the estimates will be included as a downloadable table. The CPS microdata will have state identifiers, as in the past, so that analysts can derive estimates on their own.

SHADAC has tentatively scheduled our annual conference call with Chuck Nelson for September 11 at 1:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time. A firm date will be announced in late August.

ACS Data Release Scheduled for September 22

The Census Bureau is scheduled to release the 2008 data for the American Community Survey on September 22, 2009. For the first time, this survey will have health insurance estimates. SHADAC researchers are preparing to help states understand how to apply these new data for health policy analysis. Look for an Issue Brief this month, and for a webinar to discuss this data release during the week of the data release. The specific date and time for the webinar will be finalized in early September.

Publications

NCHS Health Insurance Estimates Released

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) released two new reports relating to health insurance estimates.

- "Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey" provides nationwide estimates from the 2008 data from the Early Release program. The report is available here:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/insur200906.htm>
- "Health Insurance Coverage Trends, 1959-2007: Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey" presents long-term insurance coverage trends of the non-elderly (0-64 years). The report is available here:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr017.pdf>

Race, Ethnicity and Immigration Issue Briefs Released

SHADAC has released companion issue briefs on the topic of measuring race, ethnicity and immigration status in surveys that

measure health insurance coverage and access to care. The first issue brief, "Measurement of Race, Ethnicity, and Immigrant Groups in Federal Surveys," focuses on how the data are collected among seven federal surveys. The second brief, "Data Availability for Race, Ethnicity, and Immigrant Groups in Federal Surveys," focuses on what data are available for analysts in the public use data file. We hope these resources will assist analysts with survey development and/or analysis of existing survey data to estimate health insurance coverage and access to care for disparities populations.

- [Click here to view the Measurement issue brief](#)
- [Click here to view the Data Availability issue brief](#)

Presentations

SHADAC presentations at AcademyHealth ARM

SHADAC and SHARE researchers attended the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting and adjunct State Health Policy Interest Group meeting in Chicago, IL, June 27-30. Dr. Blewett chaired a panel, "Early Results from the State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE) Program," showcasing evaluations of implemented state health reform initiatives. She also presented "Using Research in the Real World: State Integrated Research" at a session focused on applying research to the decision making process. Dr. Davern chaired the panel, "Unstable Ground? Comparing Income, Poverty & Health Insurance Estimates from Major National Surveys," addressing variation in estimates and how analysts manage this to inform policy. The presentations are available at: <http://www.shadac.org/content/presentations>.

Lynn Blewett Presented to Minnesota Health Care Reform Review Council

SHADAC PI Dr. Lynn Blewett presented to Minnesota's Health Care Reform Review Council on June 18th. Dr. Blewett discussed the current status of federal reform efforts in Congress, addressing the potential state-level impacts of federal reform. She emphasized her concerns about the strain that implementing national reform will place on stressed state infrastructures in the absence of appropriate funding from the federal government. She was accompanied by University of Minnesota colleague Dr. Bryan Dowd, who discussed taxing employer-sponsored health benefits and pooling for a public plan option, laying out the economic arguments surrounding both issues. The presentations are available at: <http://www.shadac.org/content/presentations>.

News from the States

Minnesota:

New report on barriers to health care among public program enrollees in Minnesota

SHADAC investigator Dr. Kathleen Call has released a new report describing barriers to health care services among enrollees in Minnesota's public health care programs. The 2008 study, funded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), focused on disparities in service use and access among six race/ethnic groups. The prevalence of several barriers has declined somewhat since this study was last conducted in 2003, although not to the level that would be considered successful. The report is at: http://www.shadac.org/files/shadac/publications/MNDHS_Disparities_Jun2009.pdf

Oklahoma:

2008 Health Access Survey Results Released

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority has released results from the 2008 Oklahoma Health Care Insurance and Access Survey. The study provides up to date information on health insurance coverage among adults and children in Oklahoma, descriptions of those with and without health insurance coverage, and change over time in coverage rates and the characteristics of insured and uninsured populations. The study showed that 16.4% of Oklahoma residents were estimated to have been uninsured at the time of the survey in 2008 and is unchanged since the 2004 survey.

- [Click here to view the final report](#)
- [Click here to view county-level estimates](#)
- [Click here to view the fact sheet](#)

SHADAC is a research and policy center at the University of Minnesota that provides technical assistance to state analysts and policy makers across the country in the areas of survey design, data collection and policy development, as well as research on factors contributing to health care coverage and access in the United States. SHADAC is funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. For more information see www.shadac.org

If you wish to be removed from the SHADAC mailing list, [click here](#).