



State Health Access Data Assistance Center

Electronic Newsletter – May 5, 2008

Announcements

State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE) Awards \$5 Million in Grant Funding

State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE), a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) initiative administered through a collaboration between the RWJF and SHADAC, has awarded \$5 million in grant funding to fifteen applicants. The grants will support research to evaluate a wide variety of state-level health care reforms across the country. This research will contribute to the development of an evidence-based resource to inform future state health reform efforts.

Information on SHARE and its grantees is available at: www.staterformevaluation.org

Davern Awarded the 2008 John D. Thompson Prize for Young Investigators

Michael Davern, Co-Principal Investigator and Research Director at SHADAC and Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota, has been awarded the 2008 John D. Thompson Prize for Young Investigators from the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA). The Prize recognizes young investigators based on their contributions to the research literature in the field of health services. More information is available at: <http://www.aupha.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3320>

SHADAC Issue Brief on Survey Response Rates

SHADAC researchers released an issue brief in February 2008 titled: "Are Lower Response Rates Hazardous to Your Health Survey?" This brief explores response rates and response bias in public health surveillance surveys. The brief is available at: <http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/18528/IssueBrief13.pdf>

SHADAC Leads Project on Analysis of "Medicaid Undercount"

Michael Davern is leading an inter-agency collaboration to study the Medicaid undercount in the Current Population Survey (CPS). Reports on phases one and two of this project have been released by the U.S. Census Bureau and are available at: <http://www.census.gov/did/www/shadac/shadac.html>

SHADAC Consults on the 2008 Massachusetts on Health Insurance Survey

SHADAC researcher Kathleen Call is collaborating with the Urban Institute and International Communications Research (ICR) to conduct the 2008 Massachusetts Household Survey on Health Insurance Status (HIS). This survey will use the Coordinated State Coverage Survey (CSCS)—a health insurance survey instrument developed by SHADAC researchers. Massachusetts will be the 20th state to have fielded a health insurance survey using the CSCS.

Presentations

Davern Presents at the Annual PAA Meeting

Michael Davern presented a poster on "Differences in Healthcare Utilization by Birth Cohort over the Past 34 Years and Potential Policy Implications" at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA) New Orleans in March. This research utilizes longitudinal data from the [Integrated Health Interview Series](#) (IHIS) effort led by SHADAC.

The poster is available at: http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/30697/Poster_PAA2008Apr18_Davern.pdf

Davern Presents on Small Area Estimates at the 25th Annual BRFSS Conference

Michael Davern was invited to present during a plenary session on Small Area Estimates at the 25th Annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) conference in Orlando in March. His presentation was titled: "The Impact of the American Community Survey on Small Area Estimation." The presentation is available at: http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/30697/Pres_BRFSS2008Mar17_Davern.pdf

News from the States

Mississippi Report: 2008 Profile on Children's Health Coverage

The Center for Mississippi Health Policy released a report titled: "A Profile of Children's Health Coverage in Mississippi." SHADAC researchers Kathleen Call and Jeanette Ziegenfuss provided technical assistance to staff at the Center in using the CPS for state health policy research for this report. The report provides information on trends in health coverage as well as strategies to reduce uninsurance, and is available at:

<http://www.mshealthpolicy.com/documents/ChildrensCoverageReportJan08web.pdf>

Wisconsin Local Data Release: Health Coverage and Poverty

Wisconsin released county-level estimates on the number and percent of the population by poverty status, health insurance coverage over the past year, and type of health insurance. These estimates are based on combined results from the Wisconsin Family Health Surveys in 2004-2006.

Data are available at: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/localdata/fhs/index.htm>

Wisconsin Local Data Release: Health Indicators

Wisconsin released county-level estimates on health indicators including birth counts, injury hospitalization, mortality and other measures through a new module of the online data query system, the Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH). This module provides estimates from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) for all of the 72 counties in Wisconsin. These estimates are based on combined data from the 2004-2006 years of the BRFSS data. Data are available at: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish/>

Other News

MEPS-IC Accelerates Release of Data

The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey-Insurance Component (MEPS-IC) is making changes to accelerate the availability of data tables. Currently there is a two year lag between data collection and release. Under the accelerated process, employer-based health insurance tables for private-sector establishments for the year 2008 will now be available in July 2009; and the state and local government tables for the year 2008 will be made available in October 2009. Note: In order to achieve this advance in the data release time, the MEPS-IC employer-based health insurance data will NOT be collected for the year 2007. The MEPS-IC data release schedule is available at: http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/about_meps/releaseschedule.jsp

HSR Publishes Two-Volume Special Issue on State-Level Research

In December 2007 and February 2008, *Health Services Research* published a special issue on State-Level Health Service Delivery, Access, and Practice: Improving Research and Policy. Lynn Blewett served as the guest editor for this series focused on state research. The first volume, "Using State-Level Evidence to Inform Policy," presents methodologies and approaches that facilitate state-level research. The second volume, "Evidence of Impact in State Initiatives to Improve Medicaid/SCHIP," focuses on state-level public programs such as Medicaid and SCHIP. The volumes are available at: www.hret.org/hret/publications/hsronline.html (subscription required)

RWJF Provides Grants to Boost State Health Reform Efforts

Twelve state-based consumer health advocacy groups were selected by the RWJF and Community Catalyst to participate in a new grant initiative, 'Consumer Voices for Coverage' (CVC), which provides technical and financial resources to support state-wide health reform efforts by fostering robust advocacy infrastructures. This program complements the work of SHADAC and SHARE with its focus on state-level efforts to reduce the number of people living without health insurance. Additional information is available at: www.voicesforcoverage.org

SHADAC Students Present at UMN Poster Session

SHADAC students Karen Soderberg, Amanda Yu, and Jeanette Ziegenfuss participated in the inaugural Student Research Poster Session at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health on April 11.

- Karen Soderberg (MS student) presented her research on Hennepin County MN's 2006 Survey of the Health of All People and the Environment, titled "Analysis of mode effect in a community health survey." Her poster was awarded the Student Choice Outstanding Poster for MS students.
- Amanda Yu (PhD candidate), presented her research on the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), titled "The direct and indirect effects of foreign-born status on Pap test utilization among women living in the United States: The impact of health insurance as a mediator."
- Jeanette Ziegenfuss (PhD candidate) presented her research on CPS data, titled "Monitoring State-level Uninsurance, 1996-2006."