



## State Health Access Data Assistance Center *Electronic Newsletter – November 7, 2007*

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### **Announcements**

#### **State Reform Evaluation Call for Proposals Update**

The State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE) program issued a call for proposals on August 6 to support research and evaluation of state reform initiatives focusing on health insurance access, as part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's efforts to increase health care coverage. A total of 62 proposals were submitted covering a wide range of topics and disciplines. Fewer than 30 were invited to submit full proposals, which will be reviewed by a Proposal Advisory Group (PAG) made up nationwide experts. We anticipate awarding up to \$5.4 million, including twelve small-scale grants (under \$200,000) and five large-scale grants under \$600,000. Details are available at the SHARE website: [www.statereformevaluation.org](http://www.statereformevaluation.org)

#### **SHADAC Hosts Annual CPS Conference Call**

SHADAC hosted its seventh annual CPS conference call for state analysts and policy makers on August 29, 2007, featuring 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 focused on major findings and measurement issues in the 2006 CPS state-by-state estimates of health insurance coverage, and was attended by 60 analysts across the country. Call highlights are available at: [http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/18528/CPSConfNotes\\_Aug2007.pdf](http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/18528/CPSConfNotes_Aug2007.pdf)

#### **SHADAC Report Issued: A State-by-State Look at SCHIP & Uninsured Kids**

Led by Michael Davern, SHADAC researchers prepared a new report on children's health insurance coverage released by the Robert Wood Johnson Cover the Uninsured initiative. The report, "Protecting America's Future: A State-by-State Look at SCHIP & Uninsured Kids," shows that 6.6 million children were covered by SCHIP at some point last year. The report is available for download at: [http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/18528/CTUKidsCovered\\_Aug2007.pdf](http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/18528/CTUKidsCovered_Aug2007.pdf)

#### **Blewett Presents on State Health Access Reform Evaluation at SCI Meeting**

Lynn Blewett presented on State Health Access Reform Evaluation at the State Coverage Initiatives 2007 Coverage Institute meeting on September 26, 2007, in Chicago. The presentation focused on drivers of the health reform activity, the importance of reform evaluation and performance assessment in health reform, and highlighted select state initiatives. The presentation is available at: [http://statecoverage.net/coverage\\_institute/blewett.pdf](http://statecoverage.net/coverage_institute/blewett.pdf)

#### **Davern presents on Exploiting Existing Data for Health Research in the U.S.**

Michael Davern presented "Linking Administrative and Survey Data for Health Policy Research in the US: The Case of the 'Medicaid Undercount'" as part of a panel on 'Opportunities and Challenges Facing the Construction of Integrated Datasets to Serve Policy Research Purposes,' at an international conference in St. Andrews, Scotland on September 18, 2007. The presentation focused on strategies undertaken by countries in the area of exploiting existing data for health research through linking of data sets. The presentation is available at: [http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/18528/Pres\\_Scotland2007Sep18\\_Davern.pdf](http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/18528/Pres_Scotland2007Sep18_Davern.pdf)

### **SHADAC Issue Briefs/Publications**

#### **Issue Briefs**

"Comparing Federal Government Surveys that Count Uninsured People in America," prepared with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, looks at the three major federal surveys that measure health insurance coverage to compare the findings and methodology. The brief is available at: [http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/18528/RWJF\\_CompareSurveysIB\\_Aug2007.pdf](http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/18528/RWJF_CompareSurveysIB_Aug2007.pdf)

"Medicaid Under-reporting in the Current Population Survey and One Approach for a Partial Correction," prepared for the U.S. Census Bureau, addresses discrepancies in survey estimates of public health insurance program

enrollment versus those compiled from administrative enrollment data for those same programs. The brief is available at: [http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/18528/CPSMedicaid\\_Adj\\_Oct2007.pdf](http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/18528/CPSMedicaid_Adj_Oct2007.pdf)

SHADAC re-examined issues related to crowd-out in public health insurance programs in its updated brief "Revisiting Crowd-Out." This brief updates SHADAC's previous work on this topic published as part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Synthesis Project. The brief examines crowd-out and reviews recent findings on the size of crowd-out, the effectiveness of measures to discourage crowd-out and the trade-offs policymakers face in trying to prevent it. The brief is available at: <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/revisitingcrowdout.pdf>

## **Publications**

### **Medical Care Paper on Sample Design Efficiency of Surname Telephone Oversampling**

Authors Michael Davern, Donna McAlpine, Jeanette Ziegenfuss and Timothy Beebe published "Are Surname Telephone Oversamples an Efficient Way to Better Understand the Health and Healthcare of Minority Group Members?" in the November 2007 issue of *Medical Care*, 45(11):1098-1104. Link to the [abstract](#).

### **HSR Paper Examining Imputation Process for CPS Uninsurance Estimates**

Authors Michael Davern, Holly Rodin, Lynn Blewett and Kathleen Thiede Call published "Are the Current Population Survey Uninsurance Estimates Too High? An Examination of the Imputation Process" in the October 2007 issue of *Health Services Research*, 5(42):2038-2055. Link to the [abstract](#).

## **News from the States**

### **2006 Updates to the Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) Available**

The Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) is an interactive query-driven statistical database which provides information on health measures for the state. The updated module contains Wisconsin statewide, regional and county-level population counts and estimates for the years 1989-2006. WISH was prepared by the Department of Health and Family Services, Division of Public Health, Bureau of Health Information and Policy. More information is available at: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/wish/>

### **2007 Health Insurance Survey of Farm and Ranch Operators**

Farm and ranch operators in seven states—Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota, were surveyed on health insurance status, source of health insurance, health care access and medical debt. The information is intended for use by policy makers in exploring ways to ease the burden of health care costs for rural residents and improve access to affordable health insurance. An overview of the survey findings is available at: [http://www.accessproject.org/adobe/issue\\_brief\\_no\\_1.pdf](http://www.accessproject.org/adobe/issue_brief_no_1.pdf)

## **Other News**

### **Blewett Appointed to Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Center for Health Statistics**

Lynn Blewett has been appointed by HHS Secretary Leavitt to the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). More information on the NCHS is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>

### **Blewett on Minnesota Public Radio**

Lynn Blewett was interviewed on Minnesota Public Radio on August 28, commenting on the 2006 CPS health insurance coverage estimates that showed the number of people in the U.S. without health insurance increased by 2.2 million people. The percentage of children under 18 years old without health insurance increased to 11.7% in 2006, up from 10.9% in 2005. The news is at: <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2007/08/28/census/>

### **SHADAC at Minnesota State Fair**

SHADAC Staff were represented at the University of Minnesota exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair on Tuesday, August 21. Information on access to health insurance coverage was the primary topic of discussion. SHADAC staffers made information on health care coverage available and distributed information from the RWJF Cover the Uninsured campaign to interested fairgoers.

### **SHADAC Doctoral Candidate, Ziegenfuss Awarded AHRQ Dissertation Research Grant**

SHADAC doctoral candidate, Jeanette Ziegenfuss was awarded a prestigious dissertation research grant by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Her research focuses on "Encouraging Eligible Children's Participation in Public Health Insurance: The Role of National Awareness Campaigns."