

SHARE Grantee Newsletter - December 21, 2009

News from Grantees

Joel Cantor Quoted about SHARE Results in *Congressional Quarterly*

Joel Cantor was interviewed recently by Congressional Quarterly for an article on the broad political appeal of expanding young adult dependent coverage. The story appeared in the December 11, 2009, edition of the weekly report.

When asked about the actual impact of young adult expansion on the number of uninsured Americans, Joel cited his SHARE study on expansions of such coverage, noting that his preliminary findings show no net impact on overall coverage rates for the young adult populations studied. This is due to a substitution effect, wherein an increase in dependent coverage was accompanied by an equivalent decrease in own-name coverage. Joel noted that the impact of such expansions could be different if implemented on a national scale and accompanied by other reforms, such as an individual mandate and federal subsidies. "I think it's a totally different game in a post-reform world," he observed.

The full Congressional Quarterly article, "Proposal to Allow Young Adults to Stay on Parents' Plans Has Broad Appeal," is available at www.cq.com under CQ HealthBeat (subscription required).

Stan Dorn Speaks about Streamlining Enrollment at Congressional Briefing Hosted by Alliance for Health Reform

Stan Dorn was a featured speaker at an Alliance for Health Reform policy briefing on December 1, 2009, in Washington, D.C. The briefing featured a discussion about effective and efficient mechanisms for determining eligibility for public insurance programs and enrolling those who are eligible.

In his presentation "[Will the Uninsured Enroll into Coverage under National Health Reform?](#)" Stan used his SHARE research on Massachusetts to illustrate effective mechanisms for streamlining enrollment. Such mechanisms include (among others) data-driven eligibility, intensive application assistance, and the use of a single application and eligibility process for multiple public insurance programs. Stan pointed to Massachusetts' historically low uninsured rate as evidence of the success of these strategies. In addition, he called attention to the speed with which enrollment occurred in Massachusetts, the low number of enrollment errors seen, and the reduced operational administrative costs incurred.

Stan's recent SHARE issue brief, "[The Secrets of Massachusetts' Success: Why 97 Percent of State Residents Have Health Coverage,](#)" was featured at the Alliance meeting alongside his presentation. The Alliance meeting also featured a brief authored by SHARE researchers at the University of Wisconsin

Population Health Institute, "[Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus Coverage Expansion and Simplification: Early Data on Program Impact.](#)"

[View slides from Stan's presentation.](#)

[View coverage of the Alliance briefing from *The Bureau of National Affairs*.](#) (Subscription required.)

SHARE and SHADAC News

SHARE Deputy Director Elizabeth Lukanen Talks Health Reform at Student Leadership Summit

On December 5, 2009, SHARE Deputy Director Elizabeth Lukanen spoke at the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center's Student Leadership Summit. Elizabeth spoke to a group of health professions students about the history, current status, and possible outcomes of federal health reform, with an eye to the potential impact of reform on practitioners.

[View slides from Elizabeth's presentation.](#)

SHARE Director Lynn Blewett Presents at United Way Forum about the Potential Impact of Health Reform on Low-Income Uninsured Childless Adults

SHARE Director Lynn Blewett spoke on December 2, 2009, at a forum sponsored by United Way Twin Cities at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. The forum, "[The New Faces of the Uninsured.](#)" was held in response to the pending termination of Minnesota's state-funded General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) program, which provides health coverage to low-income adults without children and had a monthly enrollment of roughly 28,000 in FY 2008.

Lynn spoke to 120 attendees about the proposed Medicaid expansions under federal reform, which are expected to open Medicaid to low-income childless adults. The problem, Lynn noted, is that these expansions won't be implemented until 2012 or 2013, so a bridge program is needed to help GAMC enrollees in the meantime.

In discussing the short-term strategy of auto-converting GAMC enrollees into MinnesotaCare, a premium-based program, Lynn noted that GAMC patients (who are largely homeless and/or suffer from chronic mental illness) have higher medical care costs than typical MinnesotaCare enrollees and are likely to struggle to manage the premiums, deductibles, co-pays and \$10,000 annual coverage limit stipulated by MinnesotaCare.

[Watch a recording of Lynn's presentation.](#)

SHADAC Data Center Webinar and ScreenCast Demonstration Available Online

With the launch of its new Data Center, SHADAC hosted a webinar on November 17, 2009, to demonstrate how the Data Center can be used and how SHADAC's enhanced data can be accessed.

Both the webinar and a screencast demonstration of the data center's functionality are available for viewing online.

[View the Data Center webinar.](#)

[View the screencast demonstration of the Data Center.](#)

SHADAC's Mike Davern Moves to NORC

Mike Davern, who served as SHADAC's Co-Principal Investigator and Director of Research and as a Faculty Advisor to SHARE, has left SHADAC to join the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, where he will serve as Vice President and Director of the Public Health Research Department. We at SHADAC and SHARE are sad to see him go, but this is a great opportunity for Mike. We look forward to continued collaboration with him and to the opportunity to work with his new colleagues at NORC. Mike will retain an adjunct professorship at the University of Minnesota and continue to consult with SHADAC and SHARE as needed.

SHADAC Releases Three New Technical Briefs

SHADAC has released three new technical briefs:

1. ["Estimating SCHIP/Medicaid Eligible but Not Enrolled at the County Level"](#) describes a process for estimating the number of SCHIP/Medicaid eligible but not enrolled children in all of a state's counties.
2. ["Small Area Estimation Technique for Oklahoma"](#) describes the small area estimation technique employed by SHADAC for the 2008 Oklahoma Health Care Insurance and Access Survey (OHIS). The analysis was used to develop county-level estimates of uninsurance based on data from the 2008 OHIS.
3. ["SHADAC-Enhanced CPS Health Insurance Coverage Estimates"](#) outlines the enhancements applied by SHADAC to develop the harmonized time series of health insurance coverage estimates using the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS). This was done to account for methodological changes to the CPS. This brief complements the tool tips in SHADAC's new Data Center.

Health Reform News

States Continued to Expand Coverage in 2009, Despite Economic Downturn

A new report released on December 8, 2009, by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured shows that 26 states made it easier for low-income children, parents and/or pregnant women to get health coverage in 2009, even in the face of an economic downturn that had stretched state budgets to the breaking point. States did this in a number of ways, including eligibility expansions, reduced waiting periods, and simplified enrollment procedures. Most of these changes focused on expanding coverage for children in Medicaid and CHIP. These efforts will provide further opportunities for states to learn from one another. SHARE and our grantees will continue to provide critical tools and ideas for evaluation as

this learning process moves forward.

[Link to a PDF of the full Kaiser Commission report.](#)

NASHP Unveils New Health Reform Resource for State Policy-Makers

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NAHSP) has developed a new resource to help state policymakers understand the implications of federal reforms and the sometimes complex implications of seemingly simple federal provisions. This resource, called "[Role of States in National Health Care Reform](#)," is a web-based portal for information pertinent to the state-level impact of federal health reform legislation.

[View the most recent publication on NASHP's portal. "A State Policymakers' Guide to Federal Health Reform - Part I: Anticipating How Federal Health Reform Will Affect State Roles."](#)

Grantee Action Items

Call for Abstracts for AcademyHealth's 2010 Annual Research Meeting: Deadline January 14th

The submission deadline for abstracts for AcademyHealth's 2010 Annual Research Meeting (ARM) is January 14, 2010. We encourage grantees who did not express an interest in participating on a SHARE panel to consider submitting abstracts to AcademyHealth independently. This is an ideal opportunity to disseminate your SHARE findings to other health services researchers and to key decision-makers in health policy.

[Click here for information about AcademyHealth's abstract submission process.](#)

Send Us Your News!

If you have news items that you would like SHARE to highlight, please send them to Carrie Au-Yeung at butle180@umn.edu.

SHARE is a National Program Office funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to fund, synthesize and disseminate evaluations of state health reform. Periodically, SHARE will send a newsletter outlining upcoming events, grantee activities and updates on our funded projects. For more information, visit SHARE's web site, www.statereformevaluation.org.

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