



Data for Monitoring the Uninsured at the State Level

Kathleen Thiede Call

Maximizing Enrollment for Kids
Washington DC
September 25, 2009

Funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Overview of Presentation

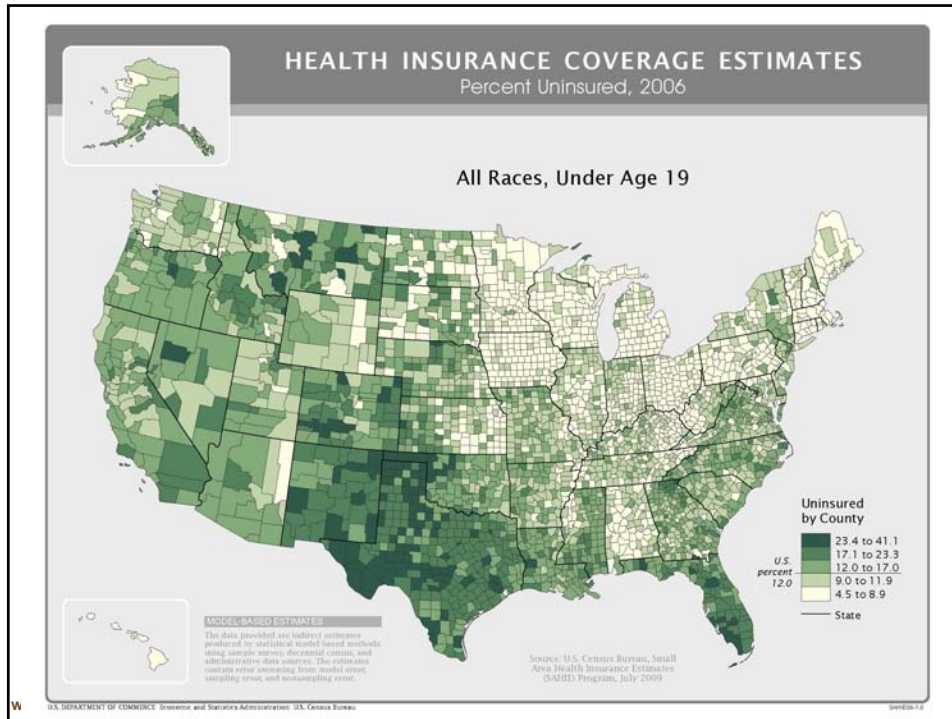
- Listing of data sources available to monitor uninsurance -- beyond the CPS and ACS
- Strengths and weaknesses of different data sources
- Advice to data users

Focus: Three Specific Data Sources

1. Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)
2. National Survey of Children's Health
3. State Health Insurance Surveys

1. Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)

- Census model-based estimates for uninsurance at state and county level
 - Using multiple sources of data to get better estimates for local use
 - Some think better, more reliable
 - Four releases to date providing estimates for 2000, 2001, 2005 and 2006
(2006 data released August of 2009)
<http://www.census.gov/did/www/sahie/>



2. National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH)

- Conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) using SLAITS
- Data available for 2003 and 2007
- Estimates are available for regions and all 50 states and DC
- Public use data files, on-line query system and micro data is available at RDC

NSCH

- Funded by HRSA-Maternal and Child Health Bureau
- Telephone survey administered in English and Spanish
- Sampling Frame: Children ages 0-17 years old
- Sample Size: over 100,000 children
 - State sample sizes vary, but designed to have a minimum of 1,700 per state

Content of the NSCH

- Child and family demographics
- Children's physical and mental health status
- Health insurance status and type of coverage
- Access and use of health care services
- Medical home
- Early childhood-specific information (0-5 years)
- Middle childhood and adolescent-specific information (6-17 years)
- Family health and activities
- Parental health status
- Parent's perceptions of neighborhood characteristics

3. State Surveys in MaxEnroll States

	Survey Year(s)
Alabama	2003
Illinois	2001
Louisiana	2003, 2005, 2007
Massachusetts	2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008
New York	2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
Utah	2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007
Virginia	2001, 2004
Wisconsin	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

<http://www.shadac.org/content/state-survey-research-activity>

Strengths of State Survey Data

- Typically more sample than national data
- Flexibility in adding policy relevant questions
- Ability to over-sample and drill down to subpopulations
 - Children, geographic units, race/ethnicity
- Analysts have data in hand
 - Ability to do analysis in-house
 - Quick turn-around
 - Policy development: Simulation of policy options
 - Program design and development, marketing and outreach

Weaknesses of State Survey Data

- Lack of comparability across states
- Variability in timing of surveys
- Most are telephone surveys – coverage issues
- Inconsistency in data documentation
- Cost concerns limits number of variables
- Discrepancies with other data sources (survey and administrative data)

Other Miscellaneous State Data Sources

- State Public Program enrollment files
 - Current estimate of program participation of eligible population
 - Likely higher than survey estimates
- State Public Program claims paid files
 - Average cost per program participant in different categories
- Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
 - Health outcomes and behavior (adults, except Massachusetts and soon Utah)

Some Advice

- Be familiar with multiple data sources and the estimates they produce
 - Exploit strengths of each data source
- While each will differ, the trends and drivers should be similar and lead to similar conclusions
- Decision-makers want an exact number or an estimate of the change over time
 - Be careful, informed, and push ahead

More advice

- Discrepancies to be aware of:
 - CPS vs ACS vs State survey estimates of coverage or uninsurance
 - See SHADAC Issue Brief 12: [State Health Insurance Coverage Estimates: Why State Survey Estimates Differ from CPS](#)
 - State survey vs state administrative data estimates of public program coverage
 - See: Call et al., 2008. Medicaid Undercount and Bias to Estimates of Uninsurance: New Estimates and Existing Evidence. [HSR](#)

Survey Resources

Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE):

<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/sahie/>

National Survey of Children's Health:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/slats/nsch.htm>

SHADAC State Survey Research Activity

<http://www.shadac.org/content/state-survey-research-activity>

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS):

<http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/>



15

Contact information

www.shadac.org

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health
Division of Health Policy and Management
2221 University Avenue, Suite 345
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414
(612) 624-4802

Principal Investigator: Lynn A. Blewett, Ph.D. (blewe001@umn.edu)

Investigator: Kathleen Thiede Call, Ph.D. (callx001@umn.edu)



©2002-2009 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved.
The University of Minnesota is an Equal Opportunity Employer

16