



Bridging the gap between research and policy

SHADAC Newsletter - May 12, 2010

Announcements

SHARE Webinar

The State Health Access Reform Evaluation program (SHARE), housed at SHADAC, hosted a webinar on April 21, 2010, titled, "[The Impact of Extending Dependent Insurance Coverage to Young Adults](#)." The webinar featured a presentation by SHARE grantee Joel Cantor, ScD, Director of the Center for State Health Policy at Rutgers University, on his analysis of dependent coverage expansions in 19 states. Troy Oechsner, J.D., served as our discussant for the webinar, providing a state perspective on dependent coverage expansion initiatives. Mr. Oechsner is Deputy Superintendent of Health for the State of New York and Adjunct Professor at Albany Law School.

[Access the webinar archive page](#)

New faces at SHADAC

We would like to welcome Joanna Turner, who has joined SHADAC as a Senior Research Fellow. Joanna joins us from the U.S. Census Bureau, where she spent nine years as a statistician working with federal population surveys. During her tenure at the Census Bureau she evaluated the new health insurance question on the American Community Survey as well as worked with the Current Population Survey and the Small Area Health Insurance Estimates Program. Ms. Turner holds a master's degree in statistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

We have also hired Leah Drilias as Research Coordinator. Leah joins SHADAC from TakeAction Minnesota, where she served as a program assistant conducting research and communications support. Ms. Drilias is a graduate of Lawrence University.

[Learn more about SHADAC staff](#)

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Publications

Health Affairs Blog

Lynn Blewett contributed to the March 19, 2010, *Health Affairs* blog on policy issues surrounding high-risk pools. "[All High-Risk Pools Are Not Equal: Examining The Minnesota Model](#)," describes how these pools are used, why Minnesota has more success than other states, and how this aspect of reform may play out as states implement new legislation. This blog was third on the list of most-read *Health Affairs* blog posts for March, 2010.

[Read the High-Risk Pools Blog Post](#)

AJPH Article

SHADAC researchers Pamela Jo Johnson (now at Allina Hospitals and Clinics), Lynn Blewett and Kathleen Call have published a paper, "The importance of geographic data aggregation in assessing disparities in American Indian prenatal care," in the *American Journal of Public Health* [100(1):122-8]. This research sought to determine whether aggregate national data for American Indians/Alaska Natives mask geographic variation and substantial subnational disparities in prenatal care utilization.

RWJF Launches Health Reform GPS Web Site

[Health Reform GPS](#) is a new web site designed to track health reform from enactment through implementation. Resources on this portal will include notes, expert and public commentary and key documents relating to reform and implementation. The site will grow and expand as the legislation and its implementation unfolds. Health Reform GPS is a joint project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Hirsh Health Law and Policy program of the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services.

[Visit Health Reform GPS Web Site](#)

Presentations

Minnesota Legislative Presentations on Federal Reform

SHADAC Director Lynn Blewett and Deputy Director Julie Sonier testified on April 6 and 8, 2010, before several committees of the Minnesota Legislature in order to clarify the immediate and pending effects of federal health reform on Minnesota's health care system. They spoke about multiple reform provisions that the state will have to address, including: public program

expansions; the implementation of new private insurance market regulations and employer-sponsored insurance rules; the interaction of Minnesota's high-risk pool with the temporary national pool; the creation of an insurance exchange; and the implementation of payment and delivery system reforms.

[Access Video and Presentation Slides from the Legislative Testimony](#)

News from the States

Minnesota Health Reform Resource Web Page

SHADAC has established a [web page of resources](#) for the health reform initiatives in Minnesota, including the reform bill passed in 2008, the implementation issues surrounding the federal health reform legislation of 2010, and related reports and presentations. This page was established to help inform the implementation process and to provide easy access to SHADAC's work with the state.

[View the MN Health Reform Resources page](#)

NASHP Report Released on Reforming Health Care Delivery in Minnesota

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) has released a report titled, "[Reforming Health Care Delivery through Payment Change and Transparency: Minnesota's Innovations.](#)" In 2008 Minnesota passed legislation containing provisions to collect and report data to achieve price and quality transparency, as well as provisions to support care redesign and payment reform. This report illustrates several key achievements and the challenges Minnesota faces in implementing these reforms. It also derives lessons from the process of passing legislation, the content and potential impact of the package, and its replicability that are useful to other states working on similar reforms as well as in national discussions on controlling costs and improving value.

[View the NASHP Report](#)

SCI Report Released

State Coverage Initiatives (SCI) has released a new report, "[Implementing State Health Reform: Lessons for Policymakers,](#)" drawing on the experiences of five states and lessons learned as well as potential implications of federal health reform. SCI also hosted a webinar on April 8, 2010 to discuss this report.

[Access the SCI Report and Webinar Archive](#)

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