

## Announcements

### **SHADAC and NASHP Awarded HHS SHAP Contracts**

SHADAC has been awarded a contract from the Health Resources and Services Administration for the State Health Access Program (SHAP) Data Collection/Analysis and Evaluation Technical Assistance. SHADAC will provide technical assistance for data and evaluation methodologies for SHAP grantees. We will be working closely with the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) which was awarded a parallel HRSA contract to provide technical assistance on policy development. The SHAP grants were awarded to 13 states in September; the grantees are listed in the "News from the States" section of this newsletter, below.

### **Current Population Survey Data Release Conference Call**

SHADAC hosted the annual Current Population Survey (CPS) data release conference call on September 11, 2009, featuring Chuck Nelson of the U.S. Census Bureau. These estimates show that the number of uninsured in the United States increased to 46.3 million, or 15.4% of the population.

[Click here to view a summary of the call.](#)

### **American Community Survey Webinar**

SHADAC hosted a webinar on September 23, 2009, to discuss the inaugural release of health insurance estimates in the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a new source of state-level and sub-state health insurance estimates and shows that 45.1 million people in the United States do not have health insurance coverage, representing 15.1% of the American population. Estimates can be viewed at American Factfinder ([click here to go to the site](#)).

[Click here to view the webinar.](#)

### **Census Bureau Releases Replicate Weights for 2005-2009 CPS**

The Census Bureau has released replicate weights for each of the Current Population Survey data files from 2005-2009. The replicate weights will provide more accurate standard error estimation than what is currently available for the public use data. The weights are in a separate file on the Census Bureau's FTP site ([click here to go to the site](#)), along with user notes with merging instructions and sample code for generating estimates.

## Publications

### **American Community Survey Issue Brief Released**

SHADAC has released a new issue brief titled, "An Introduction to the American

Community Survey Health Insurance Coverage Estimates." This brief describes the American Community Survey (ACS) and provides information on the health insurance coverage estimates released in September 2009.  
[Click here to access the brief.](#)

### **Comparing Federal Surveys Issue Brief Released**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has released an updated issue brief, "Comparing Federal Government Surveys that Count Uninsured People in America." This brief, updated to reflect recent 2008 estimates, compares estimates of health insurance coverage from four national health surveys sponsored by the federal government and identifies the differences in their estimates of uninsurance, and identifies common themes.  
[Click here to access the brief.](#)

### **CPS Historical Changes Issue Brief**

SHADAC has released a new technical issue brief titled, "Historical Changes in Current Population Survey Health Insurance Coverage Items for Survey Years 1988 through 2009." This brief describes the methodological changes that have applied to the CPS since the survey began asking health insurance coverage questions.  
[Click here to access the brief.](#)

### **Medicaid Undercount Paper Published in *HealthAffairs***

Mike Davern and Kathleen Call co-authored the paper by Jacob Klerman, "Understanding the Current Population Survey's Insurance Estimates And The Medicaid 'Undercount'," published online in *Health Affairs* in September (vol. 28, issue 6).  
[Click here to view the paper.](#)

### **Disparities Paper Published in *JHPPL***

Lynn Blewett authored the paper, "Persistent disparities in access to care across health care systems," in *The Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 34(4): 635-647.

## **Presentations**

### **Call Presents at Maximizing Enrollment Meeting**

Kathleen Call presented "Data for Monitoring the Uninsured at the State Level," at the Maximizing Enrollment for Kids conference in Washington, DC, on September 25, 2009. The panel discussed the most recent data from national data sets and new opportunities to use these data in targeting uninsured kids at the state level, and provided an overview of benefits and challenges many states encounter using state surveys to measure the uninsured.  
[Click here to view the presentation.](#)

### **Blewett Presents on Health Reform to Minnesota Senate**

Lynn Blewett gave a presentation to the Minnesota Senate Health and Human Services Budget Division titled, "Update on National Reform: A Moving Target," on August 18, 2009. Jean Abraham of the University of Minnesota also presented,

"Tackling the Tough Topics: The public plan option, employer pay or play, and paying for health care reform."

[Click here to view the presentation.](#)

## News from the States

### HHS Announces SHAP Grant Recipients

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded \$70.9 million in grants to 13 states to support the expansion of health care coverage for their uninsured populations. Funding for the grants was provided by the new State Health Access Program (SHAP), which is a successor to the HHS State Planning Grant (SPG) program. The SHAP grants are to be awarded over a 5-year period and require a 20 percent state match, unless financial hardship is demonstrated. States must also show that they can sustain the program after federal funding ends.

#### State Health Access Program FY 2009 Grant Awards

State	Award
Colorado	\$9,966,612
Kansas	\$1,930,490
Maine	\$8,500,000
Minnesota	\$4,641,776
Nevada	\$4,000,000
New York	\$2,670,930
North Carolina	\$1,264,097
Oregon	\$9,978,200
Texas	\$9,513,413
Virginia	\$912,658
Washington	\$1,228,042
West Virginia	\$6,343,900
Wisconsin	\$9,995,188
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$70,945,306</b>

### Council of Economic Advisers Releases State Impact Report

The White House Council of Economic Advisers released a report titled, "The Impact of Health Insurance Reform on State and Local Governments," on September 15, 2009. The report is intended to inform federal health reform discussions by presenting the perspective of states. Analyzing sixteen diverse states, the report provides case studies of the ways that state and local governments spend on uncompensated care.

[Click here to view the report.](#)

### Cost of Failure Report Released

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Urban Institute released a new report, "The Cost of Failure to Enact Health Reform: Implications for States," on September 30, 2009. The analysis shows the impact faced by each state if federal

reform efforts fail.  
[Click here to view the report.](#)

SHADAC is a research and policy center at the University of Minnesota that provides technical assistance to state analysts and policy makers across the country in the areas of survey design, data collection and policy development, as well as research on factors contributing to health care coverage and access in the United States. SHADAC is funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. For more information see [www.shadac.org](http://www.shadac.org)

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