

**News, June 28
2010**

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News and Announcements

SHADAC Presentations at AcademyHealth ARM

Several SHADAC researchers are presenting this week at AcademyHealth's 2010 Annual Research Meeting (ARM) (June 27-29, Boston MA). If you are at the conference, please drop by our booth (#214) to say hello.

[View a schedule of SHADAC presentations](#)

Our presentation slides will be posted on our website's [presentation page](#) shortly after the conference.

Webinar on BadgerCare Plus Enrollment Innovations Available for Viewing

SHARE hosted a webinar on June 23 titled, "[Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus - How streamlined eligibility and an innovative web-based application tool have impacted enrollment](#)." This webinar featured Jim Jones, Deputy Medicaid Director and FoodShare Director for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, who discussed the public program simplifications critical to BadgerCare's success. In addition, Theresa Fosbinder, ACCESS Coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services provided a live demonstration of the online application tool, ACCESS.

[View the webinar](#)

SHARE grantees Tom Oliver and Tom DeLeire at the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute released early findings from their evaluation project on BadgerCare Plus in October

2009 in an issue brief titled, "[Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus Coverage Expansion and Simplification: Early Data on Program Impact.](#)"

[View the BadgerCare issue brief](#)

NHIS Early Release of Health Insurance Coverage Estimates

The National Center for Health Statistics has released 2009 health insurance coverage estimates from the National Health Interview Survey. The report, "[Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, 2009](#)," provides the first look at uninsurance estimates for 2009 for the nation overall and for the 20 largest states in terms of population.

A companion report was also released, titled, "[Early Release of Selected Estimates Based on Data From the 2009 National Health Interview Survey](#)." This release provides measures of health access and health status for 2009.

The 2009 NHIS data files and documentation have also been released, including data from the standard core questionnaires as well as supplemental questions on arthritis, stroke, health information technology, carbon monoxide detector, immunization, and disability.

[View the NHIS Health Insurance Coverage report](#)

[View the NHIS Selected Estimates report](#)

[View the data documentation and download site](#)

SHADAC to Host Data User Workshop

SHADAC will host a one-day data user workshop on October 22, 2010, on the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota. This workshop is designed to promote understanding of federal survey data sources available for state-level analysis and provide hands-on training in the use of these resources. The workshop is free and SHADAC has a limited number of travel scholarships for participants from

state government agencies. However, space is limited. More information and the application are available at www.shadac.org/2010DataUserWorkshop. The application deadline is July 30, 2010.

[Learn more about the Data User Workshop and Apply online](#)

Minnesota Research Data Center Opens

The Census Bureau's Minnesota Research Data Center (MnRDC) has opened on the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota. The MnRDC provides access to non-public versions of the decennial census and Census Bureau surveys such as the Current Population Survey and American Community Survey. MnRDC also has non-public data from the National Center for Health Statistics and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. SHADAC director Lynn Blewett is on the steering committee for MnRDC and SHADAC will develop technical assistance tools for researchers who want to propose projects using these data. Watch for more information later this summer.

[More info on the MnRDC](#)

Publications

High-Risk Pool Issue Brief Released

SHADAC has released a new issue brief, "[Issues for State High-Risk Pools with Implementation of National Health Reform](#)." This brief addresses the history of state high-risk pools, provides information on individual state high-risk pools, states' decisions about participation in the temporary high-risk pool and concerns about the transition from state high-risk pools to guaranteed issue in the individual market.

[Read the High-Risk Pool brief](#)

SHADAC Researchers Present at National Academies Workshop

SHADAC Director Lynn Blewett and Senior Research Fellow Joanna Turner presented at the Workshop on Evaluating Databases for Use in Uninsured Estimates for Children, held June 17-18 in Washington, DC. The workshop was sponsored by The National Academies' Committee on National Statistics, with a goal of discussing the major issues associated with measuring health insurance coverage of children in the nation and the states.

- Lynn presented "Overview of State Survey Development and Use: What States Need to Monitor Health Insurance Coverage."
- Joanna presented "Measuring Health Insurance Coverage," highlighting comparisons between the CPS, ACS and NHIS.

The workshop also included presentations from SHARE grantees Sharon Long and Jenny Kenney, and former SHADAC co-investigator Mike Davern. The National Academies will release proceedings from the workshop later this year. SHADAC will announce the release when it is available.

News from SHARE Grantees

Health Care Safety Net Case Studies Released

SHARE Grantee Mark Hall released five new case studies as part of his grant to examine well-functioning safety nets that provide low-income patients affordable access to comprehensive care. The safety net systems examined include programs from Boston MA, Denver CO, San Antonio TX, Asheville NC, and Flint MI. Each case study assesses how these systems allow for low-income uninsured people to have access to a fairly complete range of medical services and evaluates the available data regarding the structure, adequacy and costs of the systems.

[Read the Safety Net case studies](#)

News from the States

California Healthcare Foundation Releases Reform Publications

The California Healthcare Foundation (CHCF) has produced a series of publications as part of its Health Reform and Public Programs Initiative to support the implementation of national health reform in California and advance the effectiveness of public coverage programs. Publications currently posted include, "Implementing National Health Reform in California: Changes to Public and Private Insurance," "Insurance Provisions of the Affordable Care Act: An Implementation Timeline for California," and "The Affordable Care Act: What Californians Should Know".

These publications and information about the CHCF Health Reform and Public Programs Initiative are available at www.chcf.org/publications/2010/05/the-affordable-care-act-in-california.

Connecticut is First to Expand Medicaid Eligibility

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Connecticut's Medicaid coverage expansion on June 21, 2010, making them the first to cover all individuals up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level as part of the Patient Protection and Affordability Act.

[View the Department of Health and Human Services news release](#)

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