



News, July 12 2010

Featured items

[SHADAC Data User Workshop](#)

[SHADAC Presentations at AcademyHealth ARM](#)

[SHARE Grantee Genevieve Kenney Releases Report on Medicaid Changes in ID and KY](#)

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News and Announcements

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. Experience analyzing survey data is useful but not required. The workshop is free, but space is limited. SHADAC has a limited number of travel scholarships for participants from state government agencies. The application deadline is July 30, 2010.

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

NCHS National Conference on Health Statistics

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is hosting the National Conference on Health Statistics (previously called the Data Users Conference) in Washington, DC, on August 16-18, 2010. Lynn Blewett will moderate a panel titled, "State Needs for Data in the Context of National Health Reform," and SHADAC Research Assistant Peter Graven will present on two-stage modeling of estimates.

[View more information on the NCHS conference and register online](#)

NHIS Data Users Workshop

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) will conduct an all-day workshop on the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) on Thursday, August 19, 2010, at NCHS in Hyattsville, Maryland. This workshop will immediately follow the NCHS National Conference on Health Statistics being held August 16-18 in Washington, DC. Individuals wishing to attend the NHIS workshop must register separately to attend.

[View more information on the NHIS Workshop and register online](#)

Publications

SHADAC presentations from AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting

Several SHADAC researchers presented at AcademyHealth's 2010 Annual Research Meeting (ARM), held in Boston, MA,

June 27-29. Presentation slides are available on our website at www.shadac.org/content/presentations

SHARE Findings Presented at AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting

Findings from SHARE-supported projects led by Genevieve Kenney, Sharon Long, and Tom DeLeire were presented at the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting in Boston, MA.

[View SHARE presentations from AcademyHealth](#)

SHARE also held its annual breakfast meeting at AcademyHealth. Thanks to all who could join us - we enjoyed this chance to catch up with SHARE grantees and other members of RWJF's coverage team.

News from SHARE Grantees

Genevieve Kenney Releases Reports on Medicaid Changes in Idaho and Kentucky

SHARE grantee Genevieve Kenney, Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center, along with co-authors Jennifer Pelletier and Julia Costich, have released two new in-depth reports detailing the Medicaid policy changes in Idaho and Kentucky that were implemented under authority granted by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA). In the SHARE-sponsored reports, the authors evaluate the impacts of Idaho and Kentucky's Medicaid policy changes, along with the political, regulatory, and institutional environments that influenced these impacts. The authors describe numerous successes with the Medicaid modifications in the two states. They make the case, however, that further Medicaid changes are needed, while noting that such changes will likely be heavily dependent on how these states weather the current economic downturn and on the policy changes associated with federal health reform efforts.

[Read the Idaho case study](#)

[Read the Kentucky case study](#)

Edward Miller Presents SHARE Findings to SHAP States

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) recently initiated a project called [SHAP \(State Health Access Program\)](#), which has funded 13 states to implement access expansions. In response to numerous inquiries from SHAP grantee states about benefit design, Edward Miller, Assistant Professor of Public Policy at Brown University, was asked to present to the group about the benefit design lessons from his SHARE-sponsored research. Dr. Miller spoke about what has been learned from his study of Rhode Island's HEALTHpact initiative, touching on the subjects of subsidies, wellness incentives, cost-sharing, and design complexity. Further details about Dr. Miller's findings are available in his recent issue brief, "[Rhode Island's HEALTHpact Plan: Lessons for Small-Group Reform](#)".

As part of the SHAP initiative, HRSA contracted with

SHADAC to provide technical assistance to SHAP states on data and evaluation, and the [National Academy for State Health Policy \(NASHP\)](#) was contracted to provide technical assistance on policy development. Dr. Miller spoke to SHAP grantees as part of NASHP's SHAP Peer Learning Group series.

Sharon Long in *Health Affairs*: Evaluating Massachusetts' Health Reforms

Sharon Long, Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center, authored two articles included in the June 2010 issue of *Health Affairs* based on research into Massachusetts' landmark health reforms and are part of the journal's "Update on Massachusetts."

In "[Sustaining Health Reform in a Recession: An Update on Massachusetts as of Fall 2009](#)," Dr. Long and Dr. Karen Stockley analyze how Massachusetts has fared during the current recession with respect to insurance coverage, health care costs and access to care. They observe a continued record-low uninsurance rate in 2009, along with improvements in access to care and affordability despite the economic downturn. There remain, however, some persistent access and cost issues. In a second article, "[Health Reform in Massachusetts Cut the Uninsurance Rate among Children in Half](#)," authors Genevieve Kenney, Sharon Long, and Adela Luque evaluate the post-reform drop in uninsurance among the state's children. According to the authors, this decrease illustrates that outreach, enrollment simplifications, and coverage expansions to both parents and children are critical components of efforts to reduce the number of children who are uninsured.

Read the article, "[Sustaining Health Reform in a Recession: An Update on Massachusetts as of Fall 2009](#)" (*Health Affairs* subscription required to view full text).

Read the article, "[Health Reform in Massachusetts Cut the Uninsurance Rate Among Children in Half](#)" (*Health Affairs* subscription required to view full text).

News from the States

Georgia Forms PPACA Work Group

The Georgia Health Policy Center has formed a work group dedicated to understanding and translating the new health reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The group is comprised of experts from across Georgia State University who are delving into the details of the law to provide a clear understanding of the impact on state policymakers, agencies, providers, community-based organizations, individuals, and businesses. The work group's web site has a package of policy briefs designed to help the public understand the reform and implications for Georgia.

[Access Georgia Health Policy Center's policy briefs](#)

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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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