

News, July 26 2010

### Featured items

[Sharon Long Joins SHADAC](#)

[SHADAC to Host Data User Workshop](#)

[Sharon Long Publishes on Massachusetts Reform](#)

[New Issue Brief on Impact of Reform in Michigan](#)

### Connect with SHADAC

 [Follow us on Twitter](#)

 [Become a fan](#)

 [Read our blog](#)

## News and Announcements

### Sharon Long Joins SHADAC

We are pleased to announce that Sharon Long has joined SHADAC as Senior Economist and Professor in the Division of Health Policy and Management at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Sharon is an applied economist with over 25 years of experience conducting quantitative and qualitative policy research. She has conducted numerous studies of the effects of federal and state policy initiatives, including extensive research on reform in Massachusetts, and we are looking forward to applying her expertise at SHADAC. Sharon holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and most recently was Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center.

### 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, and SHADAC has a limited number of travel scholarships for participants from state government agencies.

[View more information on the workshop and apply online](#)

The application deadline is **July 30, 2010**.

## **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](#)

## **MEPS-IC Estimates Released**

The 2009 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Insurance Component (MEPS-IC) tables have just been released on the MEPS Website. State-specific spreadsheets are also posted on the site, including some recent additions to the state tables.

[Access the MEPS-IC tables](#)

MEPS also released an Excel file with MEPS-IC national and state-level estimates for 2009 private-sector establishments broken out by purchased versus self-insured plans and firm size. This spreadsheet is available upon request to Jim Branscome, MEPS Project Director, at

[MEPSProjectDirector@ahrq.hhs.gov](mailto:MEPSProjectDirector@ahrq.hhs.gov).

## **NHIS Sample Adult File Re-released**

On July 15 the NHIS staff discovered that a problem with CDC's server in early June 2010 resulted in the system restoring the version of the 2008 NHIS Sample Adult file that was originally released in June 2009, rather than the version that was re-released on May 27, 2010. The correct re-released 2008 NHIS Sample Adult file was again placed on the NHIS Website on July 15. The file is available for download at the [CDC 2008 data release web page](#).

## **MEPS Data Workshop Registration Open**

Registration is now open for the upcoming two-day Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) Data User Workshop in Rockville, MD, on September 15-16, 2010. The purpose of this workshop is to facilitate the use of the MEPS-HC public use data on medical expenditures and conditions. The workshop will provide both practical information about MEPS files and an opportunity to construct analytic files with the assistance of AHRQ staff. There is no fee for this workshop.

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

## **Publications**

### **Sharon Long Publishes on Massachusetts Reform**

Sharon Long and her former colleagues at the Urban Institute have published two articles in the June issue of *Health Affairs*. "Sustaining Health Reform In A Recession: An Update On Massachusetts As Of Fall 2009," co-authored with Karen Stockley, provides an update as of fall 2009 on health reform in Massachusetts for working-age adults. Long and Stockley examine the impact of health reform on insurance coverage, on access to and use of services, and

on health care costs and the affordability of care since 2006.

The second article, by Genevieve Kenney, Sharon Long and Adela Luque, is titled, "Health reform in Massachusetts Cut The Uninsurance Rate Among Children In Half," and looks at the effects of health reform on insurance coverage for children in Massachusetts. This research was funded in part by SHARE.

### **SHADAC Posts ACS Sample Counts by State**

SHADAC has posted unweighted sample counts by state for the 2008 American Community Survey (ACS) public use microdata file. This information is useful for states to see how many interviews were conducted in each state. The file is available for [download in Excel format](#) from our web site.

## **News from the States**

### **New Issue Brief on Impact of Reform in Michigan**

The Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation (CHRT), housed at the University of Michigan, released a brief titled, "Impact of Health Reform on Coverage in Michigan." This brief provides an estimate of the impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) on insurance coverage in Michigan, and utilized the SHADAC-enhanced Current Population Survey estimates from SHADAC's Data Center.

[View the Michigan issue brief](#)

### **Wisconsin Offers BadgerCare Plus Basic**

Starting July 1, Wisconsin began offering health benefits for low-income adults through its new self-funded health care plan, BadgerCare Plus Basic. This plan was created in order to provide basic services for the more than 50,000 adults on the waiting list for Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus Core

Plan, a more comprehensive program that suspended enrollment in October 2009 because of state budget constraints. To qualify for BadgerCare Plus Basic, individuals must be childless adults below 200% of the federal poverty level and must currently be on the Core Plan waiting list.

[View more information on the BadgerCare Plus Basic program](#)

## Corrections

In our July 12 newsletter, Edward Miller was incorrectly identified as being an Assistant Professor of Public Policy at Brown University. Dr. Miller is in fact Associate Professor of Gerontology and Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Our apologies to Dr. Miller for this oversight.

If you would like to subscribe to our email list, please visit our signup page at [www.shadac.org/content/stay-updated](http://www.shadac.org/content/stay-updated).

Visit us online at [www.shadac.org](http://www.shadac.org)

**SHADAC** is funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help states monitor rates of health insurance coverage and to understand factors associated with uninsurance.

**SHARE** is a National Program Office funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to fund, synthesize and disseminate evaluations of state health reform. SHARE operates out of SHADAC. For more information, visit SHARE's web site, [www.statereformevaluation.org](http://www.statereformevaluation.org).

Copyright (C) 2010 State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) All rights reserved.