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News: September 6, 2011

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Announcements

ACS/CPS Data Release Webinar to be Held on September 23

SHADAC's annual webinar to discuss the release of health insurance coverage estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS) and the Current Population Survey (CPS) will be held at 1:00 PM EDT on September 23. Register now for the ACS and CPS State Health Insurance Estimates Webinar.

The webinar will present results from both surveys, discuss methodological changes to the surveys, guide users in accessing the estimates, and discuss how to use these estimates as federal health reform is implemented by the states. Experts from the U.S. Census Bureau will join the call to discuss these issues and respond to questions.

The CPS estimates will be released on September 13 and the ACS will be released on September 22.

Lynn Blewett and Elizabeth Lukanen Present at State Health Access Program Meeting

SHADAC Director Lynn Blewett and Senior Research Fellow Elizabeth Lukanen participated in the final all-grantee meeting of the Health Resources and Services Administration's State Health Access Program (SHAP), held August 23-24, 2011, in Washington, DC.

Lynn led a session on Health Reform and Provider

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Capacity. Her presentation "Health Reform and Provider Capacity," focused on the importance of conducting provider capacity at a state level given the passage of health reform, key analytic steps to this type of analysis and alternative ways to monitor and assess provider capacity issues.

Elizabeth presented "Key Lessons Learned from the SHAP Program - Data and Evaluation," describing ten lessons that SHADAC staff learned by working with the SHAP states on their evaluation activities.

SHADAC also developed a brief analysis of primary care capacity for each SHAP grantee state. Each summary brief includes: the distribution of the projected Medicaid eligible population; characteristics of the potentially newly eligible; current primary care physician supply relative to population in the state, and; possible sources of provider capacity data.

Medicare Data Webinar on September 27

Changes in Health Care Financing and Organization (HCFO) and AcademyHealth's Methods Council are hosting a webinar at 1:00 PM EDT on September 27 to discuss the process of acquiring and using Medicare data. "Getting and Using Medicare Data: What I Wish I Had Known Before I Started My Research" is open to the public but pre-registration is required.

Resources

HCUP Releases Report on the State Experience in Reducing Disparities

The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) released "Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities through Health Care Reform: State Experience." This brief

describes provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) pertaining to reduced disparities and features Maryland's commitment to reducing disparities as a part of ACA implementation.

New Census Data Tool Released

The organization Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) has released a new data tool that provides a simple way to access state and sub-state tabulations from the 2010 Census. The tabulations include population breakdowns from both the 2000 and 2010 Census and differences between the counts.

UDS Mapper Updated with 2010 Data

The Uniform Data System (UDS) Mapper is now updated with 2010 demographic estimates and 2010 UDS data. The Mapper is a tool that provides information about the geographic extent of U.S federally-funded health centers. The Mapper is free and open to the public, but user registration is required.

News from the States

California Report Profiles Potential New Medi-Cal Users

The Public Policy Institute of California released a report, "Expanding Medi-Cal: Profiles of Potential New Users," providing characteristics of uninsured Californians likely to become eligible for Medi-Cal under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Using data from the California Health Interview Survey, finds that the newly eligible make up a relatively young population that is no less healthy than current non-disabled Medi-Cal users.

Colorado Primer on the Safety Net Released

Colorado Health Institute (CHI) release the "2011 Safety

Net Primer," providing an overview of Colorado's health care safety net and profiling the state's 790,000 uninsurance individuals based on data from the 2008-09 Colorado Household Survey.

Visit SHADAC's blog for regular updates and commentary

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These updates include our bi-weekly newsletter; webinars on data, evaluation, and reporting related to Affordable Care Act implementation; and other resources pertinent to state health policy.

If you were forwarded this message and would like to subscribe to our email list, please visit our signup page at www.shadac.org/content/stay-updated.

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. Visit us online at www.shadac.org

SHARE is a National Program 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.

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