



February 2020

SHADAC Announcements

SHADAC and SHVS Release a New Brief on Leveraging Federal Survey Data to Advance Health Equity



In a [new issue brief](#) for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's [State Health and Value Strategies](#), SHADAC explores how researchers, policymakers, and state Medicaid programs can use data from the American Community Survey (ACS) to inform and target interventions that seek to address social determinants of health (SDOH) and advance health equity. The brief also provides examples of states that use social determinants of health and health equity measures from the ACS, including which measures are used and what they are used for.

Updates to SHADAC's Uninsured Profile Tool and Interactive Map for Minnesota

SHADAC Investigator Dr. Kathleen Call recently released an [update to the Minnesota Uninsured Profile Tool](#), developed in partnership with the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Minnesota. The update allows users to view the uninsured population not only by state, region, county, and ZIP code (as was possible in the original version), but also by state legislative district—both House and Senate. The profile, which is available for download [here](#), also includes an updated version of the companion [interactive map](#).



Data, Analysis, and Trends from the States

Cost and Access to Health Care Top Concerns in California Health Policy Survey



In a recent [California Health Policy Survey](#), conducted by the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), over half of the state's residents (51%) responded that they had skipped or delayed needed physical or mental health care due to cost this year—a substantial increase from 44% in 2019. The full report, which is accompanied by supplemental charts and a [summary](#) of top line results, also found that nearly half of Californians (48%) reported difficulty accessing needed mental health care in the past year, a challenge that 52% of survey respondents characterized as a top priority to be addressed by the health care system.

Rhode Island Health Advocacy and Equity Report 2020

A [new legislative report](#) from the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and the Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity (CHAE) provides readers with an overview of data from the state's first set of Health Equity Measures. Fifteen total measures are included in this set, under a broader umbrella of five topic areas—Integrated Healthcare, Community Resilience, Physical Environment, Socioeconomics, and Community Trauma—as well as a miscellaneous "Additional Measures" category. Each measure includes breakdowns such as race/ethnicity, economic status, education level, and county/municipality, where applicable.



2019 Colorado Health Access Survey Results Released



The Colorado Health Institute has released the [latest results](#) from the 2019 Colorado Health Access Survey (CHAS), which catalogs some of the major trends in coverage in the state over the past ten years. Key findings show an increase in employer-sponsored insurance coverage (up from 49.4% in 2017 to 52.7% in 2019), while uninsurance has remained the same (6.5% in 2017 and 2019) and Medicaid, Medicare, and individual insurance coverage have each decreased to varying degrees. The survey also shows the state's first increase in the number of Coloradans struggling to pay medical bills (up to 18.1% in 2019 from 14.0% in 2017) since 2009.

Payment and Delivery System Advancement in the States

CHCF and Manatt Explore Lessons for States Paying for Value in Behavioral Health

The California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) and Manatt Health recently collaborated on a [new report](#) that reviewed different types of behavioral health value-based purchasing models in three state Medicaid programs—Vermont, New York, and Tennessee. The report considers what lessons might be learned regarding implementation of differing model types (total cost of care, episodic, or bundled payment), cost savings analysis, and improvement in access and quality outcomes for other states, like California, looking to enact similar initiatives.



Other Data News & SHADAC Resources

2020 Federal Poverty Guidelines Released by ASPE



The U.S. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) has issued [Federal Poverty Guidelines \(FPG\) for 2020](#). Federal Poverty Guidelines are used for administrative purposes, such as determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs, and are distinct from Federal Poverty Levels (FPL), which are issued by the U.S. Census Bureau to be used primarily for statistical purposes. Check out the SHADAC blog "[FPG vs. FPL: What's the Difference?](#)" to learn more about the distinction between these two measures.

BRFSS Spotlight Series Featuring Health Outcomes Data from State Health Compare

A new, three-part series from SHADAC presents an analysis of updated data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey for three measures of health behaviors—[Adult Smoking and E-Cigarette Use](#), [Adult Binge Drinking](#), and Adult Obesity (forthcoming). The analysis includes breakdowns by race/ethnicity and educational attainment in select cases. Yearly estimates for these measures are also all available on [SHADAC's State Health Compare](#).



Additional Resources

New NCHS Brief on Problems Paying Medical Bills in 2018



The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) released a [data brief](#) that uses recent data from National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) to estimate the percentage of persons in the United States who had problem paying medical bills, which dropped overall from 2011 (19.7%) to 2018 (14.2%). The report also found that women, families with children (age 0-17), and Black adults had the highest rates of problems paying medical bills in 2018.

SHVS Resource Page on the 2020 Public Charge Rule

In the wake of the [Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds](#) rule going into effect on February 24, State Health & Value Strategies has created a [resource page](#) that provides readers with a summary of the rule as well as a timeline of the initial proposal and the current implementation proceedings and ongoing litigation. The page also includes links to a number of related reports and briefs, [FAQs](#), materials from individual states, and resources from federal agencies.



Recommended Reading

[High rankings on health outcomes mask distressing racial disparities](#)
Betsy Hammer; Minnesota Budget Bites (blog)

[Precarious Work Schedules and Population Health](#)
Robert Wood Johnson and HealthAffairs

[Covering All Kids: A Vision for the Future](#)
Joan Alker, Kelly Whitener; Georgetown CCF

[Health Insurance Affordability Concerns and Health Care Avoidance among US Adults Approaching Retirement](#)
University of Michigan and University of Iowa

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