SHADAC Announcements

SHADAC Analysis Examines Changes to Health Behaviors in 2019

Concerns around rising U.S. health care spending, compounded by rising national uninsured rates, can be seen in direct measures of actual dollars, such as SHADAC’s State Health Compare Medical Out-of-Pocket Spending and High Medical Care Cost Burden measures, but also in more indirect avenues, such as changes in health behaviors like Adults Who Forgo Needed Medical Care and Adults with No Personal Doctor—both of which were recently updated with 2019 data. A new blog provides an analysis of these indirect costs of rising health care costs in the year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic by examining national and state-level trends as well as comparisons across race/ethnicity and educational attainment.

SHADAC Resource on COVID-19 K-12 School Opening and Closing Policies for the National Governor’s Association

On behalf of the National Governor’s Association (NGA), SHADAC developed a resource highlighting states that have released data thresholds to guide schools, school districts, and other stakeholders in decision-making on full or partial school reopening. The resource also outlines common measures that provide the basis for determining thresholds and explores how measure definitions and thresholds compare across states. Currently, nine states publicly report status of a school region based on data thresholds, and 20 states report cases in schools on public dashboards.

State Health Compare Users Can Now Explore Unemployment Data by Race/Ethnicity

SHADAC recently added race/ethnicity data to our measure of Unemployment Rates on the State Health Compare data tool. Unemployment is a crucial social determinant of health, often varying widely across racial/ethnic categories in a way that can be masked by a consideration of population-wide unemployment numbers. For instance, recent SHADAC analysis showed the national unemployment rate reaching a low of 3.7% in 2019; however, unemployment rates measured 2.7% among Asian Americans, 3.3% among Whites, 4.3% among Hispanics/Latinos, and 6.1% among African-Americans/Blacks.

Data, Analysis, and Trends from the States

Now Available: 2019 Louisiana Health Insurance Survey (LHIS) Data

Recently released 2019 data from the biennial Louisiana Health Insurance Survey (LHIS) revealed good news: the state uninsured rate for nonelderly adults age 19-64 (11.1%) measured lower than the national average, as did the state uninsured rate for children (3.8%). Other topics measured by the survey include whether respondents felt their health care needs were being met, health care provider availability, and the reasonability of health care costs in the state.

A Look at Uninsured Adults in Mississippi: Data from 2018

The Center for Mississippi Health Policy recently released several fact sheets detailing state and county-level data of adult uninsured rates by federal poverty level. Overall, Mississippi rates of uninsurance were higher than the U.S. averages for adults at or below 138% FPL (33.0% vs. 23.3%) and at or below 400% FPL (23.4% vs. 18.2%). However, county-level data showed respective drops of 30% and 34% in uninsured rates for adults at or below 138% FPL and 400% FPL from 2015 to 2018.

Healthy Pennsylvania Partnership: State Health Assessment 2020

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has released the latest results from the State Health Assessment (SHA), a collaborative health survey designed to provide information on social determinants of health, health equity, and health factors, and the populations most impacted by each topic. For instance, the

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Payment and Delivery System Advancement in the States

State All-Payer Claims Databases: Tools for Improving Health Care Value (Part 1 & 2)

The Commonwealth Fund has published a two-part report on the status of all-payer claims database (APCD) development and implementation across all 50 states as an important tool for efforts to control rising costs of health care and increase value. Part 1 of the report summarizes experiences and lessons learned during the creation and implementation processes for APCDs in eight states. Part 2 of the report builds on this initial coverage to discuss the uses and benefits of establishing APCDs, as well as challenges and lessons learned that may be useful for other states considering ACPD establishment.

Other Data News & SHADAC Resources

2020 MACStats Data Book Now Available from MACPAC

The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) recently released the 2020 version of the MACStats Data Book. A comprehensive collection of federal and state data regarding Medicaid and CHIP programs, key topic areas from the data book include Medicaid and CHIP eligibility, enrollment, and expenditures, as well as beneficiary health, service use, and access to care. A companion Technical Guide to MACStats, providing further information on data methods and sources, is also available.

Changes to SHADAC’s “Child Vaccinations” Measure on State Health Compare

In response to recent methodological changes made by the National Immunization Survey (NIS)-Child, SHADAC has accordingly transitioned to reporting estimates for our Child Vaccinations measure on State Health Compare by birth year as opposed to survey year for 2011-2016. A new blog also highlights how SHADAC has altered the measure definition in order to more closely align with the CDC’s schedule for children and adolescents to receive all recommended vaccines by the age of 18 months.

Other Resources

Arnold Ventures Webinar: Home and Community-based Services and the Dual Eligible Population

Arnold Ventures is hosting a webinar at 11 AM Eastern on January 14, 2021, to discuss home and community-based services currently funded through Medicaid and the population most likely to utilize them, dual eligibles. Experts from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will also be joining Arnold Ventures to examine potential knowledge field gaps and highlight potential research opportunity growth in the field.

Pennsylvania “State of Children’s Health Care” Report Shows Rising Coverage Losses

A new report from the Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children shows a small but significant rise in the state’s uninsured rate for children (age 0-17) in 2018 to 4.4% from 4.1% the year before, representing 124,000 more kids without coverage. By health insurance coverage type, the report also shows a larger portion of children enrolled in public insurance from 2017 to 2018 (up to 32.3% from 31.7%), offsetting losses in private coverage enrollment, down to 57.6% in 2018 from 58.8% in 2017. The report also measures health service uses such as well-child visits, immunizations, and preventative screenings.

Recommended Reading

Minnesota shouldn't turn a blind eye to our health coverage deserts
Meghan Kimmel; MinnPost

COVID-19’s Impact on Dually Eligible Individuals with Serious Mental Illness
Giselle Torralba & Nancy Archibald; CHCF Blog

Connecting Systems to Build Health Equity During COVID-19
Chris Lyttle; RWJF Culture of Health Blog

Health Care in 2020: Year in Review
Shanoor Seervai and David Blumenthal; Commonwealth Fund Blog