



July 2021

SPECIAL DATA ANNOUNCEMENT

Census Bureau Announces Major Changes to 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) Data Release

The U.S. Census Bureau recently announced that due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the American Community Survey, the 2020 ACS 1-Year estimates will not be released as usual in September, nor will 2020 ACS data be included in related products (e.g., the CPS Health Insurance Report). This change comes as the pandemic resulted in substantially lower response rates and non-response bias that could affect the accuracy of estimates. Instead of the usual data products, the Census Bureau plans to release a set of 2020 “Experimental” 1-year ACS estimates for a more limited set of geographies, scheduled to be available in November 2021.

SHADAC will continue to monitor future announcements and data releases related to the ACS, and we will assess whether and how any 2020 ACS data products can be used to produce state-level health insurance coverage and related estimates. We will continue to share more information on SHADAC website via an ACS 2020 [revisions and changes page](#). We will also assess which other data sources may be useful for producing the coverage estimates we typically get from the ACS.

[Slides](#) from the webinar, a [press release](#) detailing the COVID impacts on the ACS data, a [revised release schedule and explanation of the experimental estimates](#), and a [short informational guide](#) to understanding how your work may be impacted by the change in the 2020 ACS data are all available from the Census Bureau.

SHADAC Announcements

Rising Anxiety and Depression Rates during the COVID-19 pandemic



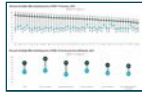
A [new brief](#) from SHADAC researchers analyzed data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Household Pulse Survey (HPS) to estimate rates of anxiety and depression in the U.S. adult population from April to December 2020. The [analysis](#) showed high rates of anxiety and depression symptoms being reported throughout the year for *all* adults, never falling below one-third (33%) of the adult population and ending with the highest levels of the year in December 2020 (42%). The brief also found heightened mental health burdens for young adults, adults with lower incomes and lower education levels, and adults who experienced income loss during the COVID pandemic.

SHADAC 2020 Annual Report

The 2020 update of the SHADAC [Annual Report](#) was recently published and is now available for viewing on our website. This report provides an overview of some of our research highlights for the year—including work on [addressing social determinants of health via Medicaid 1115 waivers](#), the creation of our [Minnesota Uninsured Profile Tool](#), and estimates of [medical out-of-pocket costs](#)—as well as work with our partners, such as examining [health care affordability in California](#) and [leveraging survey data to advance health equity](#) in state Medicaid programs. More information is available in the [full report](#).



COVID-19 Vaccination Rates: State-level and Subpopulation Evidence from the Household Pulse Survey (SHADAC Blog Update #6)



In the [latest edition](#) of our ongoing blog series looking at COVID Vaccination Rates using the Household Pulse Survey (HPS), SHADAC researchers found that in June 2021, over three-fourths of U.S. adults had received at least a partial vaccination, but this varied by state from a low of 63.9% in Mississippi to a high of 91.0% in Massachusetts. Overall, vaccination rates increased considerably across all states and improvements relative to the national average were seen for Hispanic/Latino adults, adults with lower education levels, and adults without health insurance coverage.

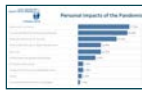
Data, Analysis, and Trends from the States

Colorado Health Institute Financial Map

Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the state of Colorado will be receiving approximately \$10 billion to support public health departments, among other state entities. The Colorado Health Institute (CHI) created a [financial map](#) to track the funding as it is distributed into buckets for services such as behavioral health, public health, and home and community based services (HCBS). As final decisions about how exactly to spend the money have not yet been made, the map aims to highlight ways for decision-makers to work together to amplify the effects of the funding.



2021 California Health Interview Survey Preliminary COVID-19 Estimates



Recently [released data](#) from the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research's 2021 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) focus on the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on state residents' ability to seek treatment for COVID, COVID-related prevention behaviors such as mask wearing, employment status (and related changes in health insurance status), difficulty affording basic necessities and/or rent or mortgage, and increased mental health burdens.

Payment and Delivery System Advancement in the States

CHCS Brief Promotes Health Equity in Medicaid Managed Care

As part of their State Toolkit for Advancing Primary Care Innovation in Medicaid Managed Care, the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) has published a [new report](#) aimed at helping states interested in advancing health equity through managed care organizations. As part of their recommendations, the report provides a list of steps for redesigning primary care programs - e.g., promoting the collection of race, ethnicity, and language data; monitor and enhance access to primary care, and using managed care contractual levers to achieve progress toward state health equity goals. The report also includes state profiles from California, Colorado, New York, Oregon, and Virginia who have already implemented or are in the process of implementing these strategies.



Other Data News & SHADAC Resources

Urban Institute Report Shows Pre-Pandemic Rise in Uninsurance among Children and Adults



A new [research report](#) from the Urban Institute shows that the combined number of uninsured children and parents rose by just over 1.0 million between 2016 and 2019. Uninsurance rose for children from 4.8% to 5.2% between 2018 and 2019, and uninsurance among adults increased from 11.2% to 11.7% over the same time period. While uninsurance rates for both children and their parents rose in both expansion and nonexpansion states, 2019 uninsurance rates remained higher in nonexpansion states (7.6% versus 3.8% for children; 17.2% versus 8.6% for adults).

ASPE Examines Health Insurance Coverage and Access to Care for American Indians and Alaska Natives

A new Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) [issue brief](#) analyzes changes in the uninsured rate, health coverage, and access to care for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) in the time between the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 and the most recent data year, 2019. The [ASPE brief](#) notes that while uninsurance has substantially decreased for the AI/AN population (from 44% to 28%), they still report some of the highest uninsurance rates in comparison to other groups. ASPE offers guidance on how to address, such as strengthening the Indian Health Service (IHS), expanding Medicaid, and using the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to extend enrollment and eligibility.



NCHS Provisional Life Expectancy Estimates Available for 2020



The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), as part of their Vital Statistics Rapid Release program, has published an [issue brief](#) on the latest life expectancy data from 2020 for U.S. adults. These provisional estimates show a large decline (1.5 years) for the U.S. population. The brief also includes estimates for population subgroups by sex and race/ethnicity, as well as understanding how causes of death factor into life expectancy rates for each subgroup.

Recommended Reading

[Three Ways to Advance Health Equity through Research](#)

Alonzo L. Plough, *RWJF Culture of Health Blog*

[U.S. should address cost anxiety as a barrier to COVID vaccination](#)

Colin Planalp, *MinnPost*

[Post-Pandemic Health Funding: 'We Hope This Changes the Minds of Public Officials'](#)

Shamane Mills, *Wisconsin Public Radio*

[Minnesota Medicaid Enrollment Grew More than the U.S. Average during COVID-19](#)

Sydney Bernard, *SHADAC Blog*

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