Announcements

FMAP and Income Conversion Project States Selected

CMS has announced its selection of states that will participate in the RAND-SHADAC study of methodologies for FMAP claiming and converting Medicaid eligibility standards to the modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) standards that will be required under the Affordable Care Act. The ten states that were selected as case study states include Arizona, California, Indiana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. As part of this project, SHADAC will be helping the ten case study states to pilot test the proposed methodologies, and beginning in the summer of 2012 will provide technical assistance to all states on FMAP claiming and income conversion methods. Information on this project is described in this webinar.

American Community Survey 3-Year Data Released

The Census Bureau released the public use data files for the 2008-2010 American Community Survey (ACS). Data and documentation can be found at the ACS 2010 Data Release page. This is the first available 3-year ACS data release for the health insurance question. This file provides more robust sample among demographic subpopulations than is available in the 1-year files. Information for data users is available in the Census publication, "A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data."
Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Released

The Census Bureau released new model-based single year Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for 2010. These estimates are based on a combination of survey and administrative data and provide statistics for school districts, counties and states. Users can view maps, create interactive tables, and download the estimates from the Census Bureau's SAIPE web page, and view a short video about the findings.

Joanna Turner to Present at Statistical Methods Conference

SHADAC Senior Research Fellow Joanna Turner will present "Implementation of Improvements to the Allocation Routine for Health Insurance Coverage in the CPS ASEC" at the 2012 Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Research Conference, to be held January 10-12, 2012 in Washington DC. This presentation describes the Census Bureau working paper she co-authored with SHADAC Research Assistant Michel Boudreaux, which describes changes implemented by the Census Bureau to improve the quality of their health insurance estimates.

Resources

Urban Institute Releases Report on Basic Health Plan

The Urban Institute released "Using the Basic Health Program to Make Coverage More Affordable to Low-Income Households: A Promising Approach for Many States."

Based on results from Urban's Health Insurance Policy Simulation Model, the report provides state-specific estimates of the effect of one approach to implementing the Basic Health Program.
NASHP Releases Reports on Medical Homes, CHIP Dental

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) released two new reports. "Building Medical Homes: Lessons from Eight States with Emerging Programs" profiles efforts in eight states at different stages in the development and implementation of medical home programs as they seek to achieve better outcomes and lower costs. "CHIP Dental Coverage: An Examination of State Oral Health Benefit Changes as a Result of CHIPRA" provides a summary of the CHIP dental benefit changes under CHIPRA and examines the states that had voluntarily sought federal approval of current benefits, or made changes to their CHIP dental benefits as of September 2011.

AcademyHealth Releases Report on Delivery System Reform

AcademyHealth released a new report describing a multi-state project. "How States Can Be Successful In Leading Health Care Delivery System Reform" provides lessons for states seeking to improve delivery system quality and value, providing insights into factors that predict success, what barriers states are likely to encounter, and what technical assistance strategies can help.

Georgetown Releases State-level Kids Coverage Paper

The Georgetown University Health Policy Institute released "Despite Economic Challenges, Progress Continues: Children’s Health Insurance Coverage in the United States from 2008-2010." Using health insurance data from the American Community Survey, the researchers found that 34 states experienced a decrease in their uninsured rate for children from 2008 and seven states saw an increase.
News from the States

California Job-Based Insurance Article Published

Colorado Health Indicators Online Tool Available
The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment released a new online data tool, Colorado Health Indicators. Site visitors can access county, regional and state-level data on a variety of health, environmental and social factors that influence health.

Georgia Oral Health Brief Released
The Georgia Health Policy Center released "The Costs and Benefits in Oral Health Care Prevention." This policy brief describes the issues relating to dental care among children, consequences of poor dental care, and reviews the provision of the Affordable Care Act that related to dental care.

Kentucky Kids Count Data Book Released
Kentucky Youth Advocates released the Kentucky KIDS COUNT 2011 County Data Book. This is the 21st annual data book providing state and county-level data to measure and improve child well-being.
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