

State Health Access Reform Evaluation: *Building the Evidence for Reform*

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State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE)

- National Program Office of the RWJF
 - Co-located with the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC)
 - Provide technical assistance to states on program evaluation and assessment
- Goals
 - Fund and coordinate evaluations of state health reform
 - Fill gaps on research to identify what works and why
 - Organize and disseminate findings in a manner that is meaningful to state and national policy-makers

Why is State Research Important?

- States are laboratories for reform
- Most health policy occurs at the state level
- States have limited capacity to do their own research



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3

If States Are Policy Laboratories: Where Are the Lab Reports?

- Evaluation of state health reform has largely consisted of specific case studies
- Difficult to compare the lessons of reform across states or across different mechanisms
- Need a uniform reform evaluation framework to identify what works and why

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4

Evaluations Provide Value to the Policy Process

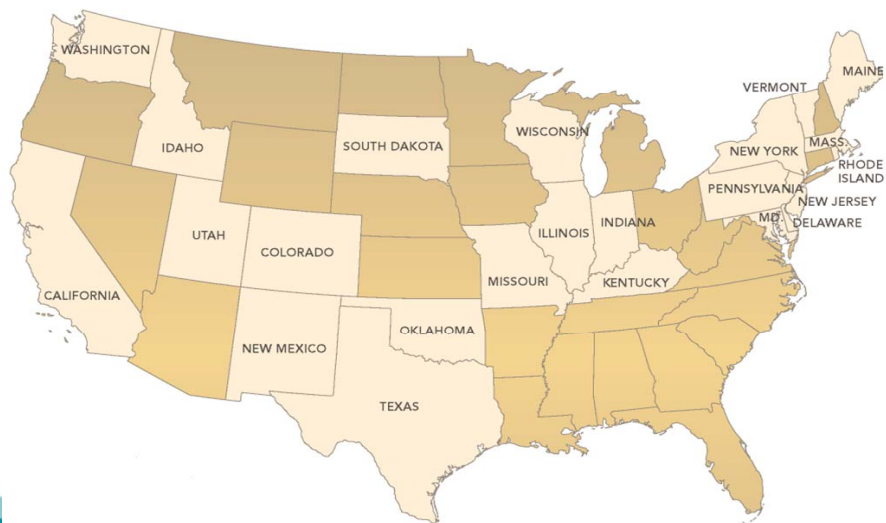
- Justify program budget/financing
- Satisfy legislative requirements
- Identify successful initiatives
- Change course if program not meeting benchmarks
- Inform state and national debate on health reform
 - What works at the state level?

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5

States Being Studied

(23 states in total)



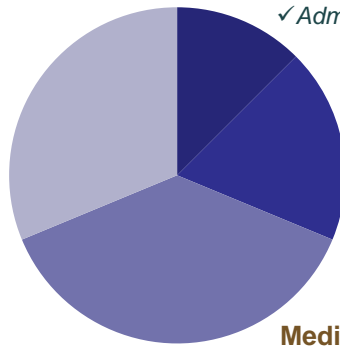
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6

Reform Topics Being Studied

Insurance Market Initiatives (5)

- ✓ Young Adult Coverage
- ✓ Section 125
- ✓ Small Group, Individual Markets



SCHIP Reform (2)

- ✓ Expansion
- ✓ Administrative Efficiency

Comprehensive Reform (3)

- ✓ Massachusetts
- ✓ Vermont

Medicaid Reform (6)

- ✓ General Reform
- ✓ Administrative Efficiency

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RESULTS

REFER TO HANDOUT

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8

State Involvement is Critical

- Must be more than a nominal partnership
- State should be involved at every stage from research design to reviewing results
- Involvement is facilitated by personal contacts
- Healthy tension between maintaining objectivity and building necessary relationships

Results Timeline

- SHARE grants awarded in spring 2008
- Early results released 2009/2010
 - National Academy of State Policy (Fall '09)
 - Association of Public Policy and Planning ([Evidenced Based Policy Making in the Post-Bush/Clinton Era](#) - Fall '09)
- Series of Issue Briefs as results become available
- Topical webinar starting in fall '09
- Special Issue: Journal of Health Services Research (web articles available in 2010)

SHADAC & SHARE as a Resource

Bridging the gap between research and policy

SHADAC and SHARE provide:

- Technical assistance on using data for state health policy research
- Resources and information on state survey methods
- Facilitation of health policy research
- Support for the evaluation of state health reform
- Synthesis of state health reform initiatives
- Technical assistance to inform health policy research

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11

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12