



State Health Access Data Assistance Center *Electronic Newsletter – August 11, 2008*

Announcements

SHADAC's State Health Access Profile Available Online

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recently launched an interactive version of SHADAC's State Health Access Profile. This is an electronic chart book that compares state health access indicators across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Access Profile can be accessed at:

<http://www.rwjf.org/coverage/product.jsp?id=28011>

SHADAC to Hold a Conference Call on CPS Data Release

The release date for the 2007 Current Population Survey (CPS) state-by-state estimates of health insurance coverage is August 26, 2008. SHADAC will host its annual conference call to discuss the major findings and measurement issues with Chuck Nelson, Assistant Division Chief for Income, Poverty and Health Statistics in the U.S. Census Bureau's Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. The call will be held at 1:00 p.m. EDT on August 27, 2008. To register for the call, please send an email to shadac@umn.edu or call 612-624-4802. Call highlights will be made available in early September on the SHADAC website: <http://www.shadac.org>

RWJF Launches New Program to Maximize Enrollment in Medicaid and SCHIP

Maximizing Enrollment for Kids: Making Medicaid and SCHIP Work is a new \$15 million initiative of the RWJF that offers grant support to assist states to better understand the strategies to enroll and retain more eligible uninsured children in Medicaid and SCHIP, and to measure their progress over time. The initiative is directed by the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP).

Additional information on grant eligibility is available at: <http://www.maxenroll.org/>

NHIS Releases State-level Estimates of Coverage

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has released a new report titled "State, Regional, and National Estimates of Health Insurance Coverage for People Under 65 Years of Age: National Health Interview Survey, 2004-2006." The report presents state-level estimates of insurance coverage across 41 states.

The report is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr001.pdf>

Publications

Comparison of Self-Reported Coverage with Administrative Data Records to Validate Coverage

SHADAC authors Michael Davern, Kathleen Thiede Call, Jeanette Ziegenfuss, Gestur Davidson, Timothy Beebe, and Lynn A. Blewett published "Validating Health Insurance Coverage Survey Estimates: A Comparison between Self-Reported Coverage and Administrative Data Records" in the Summer 2008 issue of *Public Opinion Quarterly* 72(2): 241-259. Reprints of the article may be requested by sending an email to: shadac@umn.edu.

Assessing the Relationship between Health Care Access and Voting Behavior

SHADAC researchers Jeanette Ziegenfuss, Michael Davern and Lynn Blewett published: "Access to Health Care and Voting Behavior in the United States" in the August 2008 issue of *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* 19 (3): 731-742. Reprints of the article may be requested by sending an email to: shadac@umn.edu.

Presentations

Blewett Presents on Equity in Access Issues under Single Payer Systems

SHADAC's Lynn Blewett presented on "Single Payer Systems: Equity in Access to Care" at the conference titled "The True Workings of Single Payer Health Systems: Lessons or Warnings for U.S. Health Reform." The conference was recently held at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. The sponsors included the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center, the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance, and the *Journal of Health Policy, Politics and Law*. The presentation is available at:

http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/30697/Pres_SinglePayer2008May10_Blewett.pdf

Davern Presents on Comparisons to Health Coverage Estimates from National Surveys

SHADAC's Michael Davern presented on "A Comparison of the Health Insurance Coverage Estimates from Four National Surveys," in Denver Colorado at the Joint Statistical Meetings of the American Statistical Association. The presentation is available at: http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/30697/Pres_JSM2008Aug5_Davern.pdf

Johnson Presents on American Indians and Alaska Natives in National Survey Data

SHADAC's Pamela Jo Johnson conducted a workshop on "Examination of American Indians and Alaska Natives in National Survey Data," in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The workshop was hosted by the Urban Indian Health Institute in conjunction with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council's Keeping Native Women and Families Healthy and Strong Conference. The presentation is available at: http://www.shadac.umn.edu/img/assets/30697/Pres_AIANdataskills2008Apr25_Johnson.pdf

News from States

Massachusetts Reform Study Indicates Progress in Decreasing Uninsurance

A recent article in *Health Affairs* "On the Road to Universal Coverage: Impacts of Reform in Massachusetts at One Year," addresses the impact of health reform on the lives of Massachusetts residents. The article notes a decline in uninsurance rates for non-elderly adult Massachusetts residents, with nearly 93 percent of non-elderly adults insured. A decline in uninsurance was also reported for low-income adults. The study was led by Sharon T. Long of the Urban Institute. Long is also a State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE) grantee and is evaluating the impact of state health reform initiatives across other states including Illinois, Massachusetts and New York. The abstract is available at: <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/abstract/27/4/w270>

Other News

Call Featured on Local Radio Station on Young Uninsured Adults

On July 1, 2008, SHADAC's Kathleen Thiede Call was featured on radio station KSTP 1500 AM in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. She was interviewed about high rates of uninsurance among young adults.

SHADAC Researchers Elected to the Advisory Board of Minnesota Population Center

SHADAC's Co-Principal Investigator Michael Davern and Graduate Research Assistant Michel Boudreaux were elected to the Advisory Board of the Minnesota Population Center (MPC) at the University of Minnesota. The MPC is a University-wide interdisciplinary cooperative for demographic research. It is housed in the University's Office of the Vice President for Research. More information on the MPC is available at: <http://www.pop.umn.edu/>