January 16, 2014

**Announcements**

**SHARE: Call for Proposals**

The [State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE)](https://www.shadac.org/share) program has issued a new [Call for Proposals](https://www.shadac.org/share) for research on issues surrounding state health reform. This solicitation focuses specifically on the Coverage Provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Brief proposals are due February 13, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. EST. Grants are scheduled to begin in October 2014. Please see the CFP for grant information and application instructions.

**SHADAC Webinar: Adapting State Surveys to Measure Health Coverage Post-Reform**

Joanne Pascale of the US Census Bureau will present research conducted at the Census Bureau on adapting federal surveys to measure health insurance given changes in coverage pathways under the Affordable Care Act. The session will include questions the Census Bureau is using to ask about levels of premium subsidy and the purchase of coverage in the health insurance exchange. Several other surveys within the federal statistical system are planning to adopt the same basic approach. The webinar will take place on January 23, 2014, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CST. [Register here](https://www.shadac.org/register).

**SHADAC Tables of State and County ACS Coverage Estimates, 2008-2012**

SHADAC created a series of tables containing 2008-2012 health insurance coverage estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS) for all states and all counties. For each state and county, the tables provide estimates by age, race/ethnicity, citizenship status, education, work experience, household income, and poverty level. This is the first 5-year ACS file with health insurance coverage estimates available and the first time estimates are available for all counties. The Census Bureau creates these estimates by pooling together multiple years of data to produce reliable period estimates for areas and subgroups with smaller populations. 

**Webinar: Medicaid Expansion Strategies**

State Refor(u)m will host the webinar "State Approaches to Medicaid Expansion" on ways states are expanding Medicaid to newly eligible populations and issues related to expansion, including coordination with state or federal marketplaces, education and outreach to newly eligible individuals, implications and opportunities for delivery system reform, and more. State speakers include: Suzanne Bierman, Assistant Director, Arkansas Division of Medical Services; Jason Helgerson, State Medicaid Director, Deputy Commissioner, State of New York Department of Health; and Beth Lazare, Deputy Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. The webinar will take place on January 27, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EST. [Register here](https://www.shadac.org/register).

**SHADAC Infographic: State-Based Marketplace (SBM) Eligibility and Enrollment Summary**

Through November, over 225,000 people have enrolled in the State-Based Health Insurance Exchanges (SBE), according to data released on December 11, 2013, in the second monthly enrollment report (the third monthly enrollment report was released January 13, 2014 and is available here) issued by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) at the Department of Health and Human Services. SHADAC has produced an infographic illustrating Maryland, California, and Connecticut leading the way, enrolling 47-50% of applicants who were determined eligible for the SBE plans. With respect to the volume of enrollees, California, New York, and Washington reported the highest numbers of enrollees, respectively. Together, these states account for approximately 75% of the total SBE enrollees.

**News from the States**

**Report: California’s Uninsured on the Eve of ACA Open Enrollment**

A report from the Kaiser Family Foundation summarizes the findings of a baseline survey of 2,000 uninsured Californians before the first open enrollment period under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The baseline report found that 8 in 10 uninsured Californians felt the need for health insurance and that widespread confusion about eligibility for expanded coverage exists. A majority of California’s eligible uninsured population reported that they were financially insecure and found it difficult to pay for health care.
Report: Oregon’s Quarterly Progress Report

The Oregon Health Authority released a quarterly progress report highlighting the state’s progress in transforming its Medicaid system. The report compiles nine months of utilization and cost data based on claims made for payments from Oregon’s Coordinated Care Organizations, and also shows six months of data for several statewide performance metrics. Findings include decreased emergency department visits, decreased hospitalizations for chronic conditions, increased primary care visits, and increased adoption of electronic health records among eligible providers.

Resources

State Profiles: Impact of the ACA in Every State

New reports from the Kaiser Family Foundation show how the Affordable Care Act (ACA) affects insurance coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. For states expanding Medicaid, each report provides information on how many uninsured people are eligible for Medicaid or for financial assistance, as well as the percentage of people that may gain coverage without direct financial assistance. For states not expanding Medicaid, the reports provide figures on how many uninsured people with incomes below the federal poverty level fall into the coverage gap based on the states’ decision not to expand Medicaid.

Report: Lessons Learned from the Maximizing Enrollment Program

Maximizing Enrollment, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, recently released a report prepared by researchers at the National Academy for State Health Policy that examines the approaches used by eight states—Alabama, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin—to improve enrollment and retention of children in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program. The report emphasizes the lessons learned in three key areas of state work: coordinating across government programs and agencies; improving analytic capacity and use of data to measure program performance; and providing leadership to achieve program and culture change.

Recommended Reading

"New Evidence on the ACA: Coverage Impacts of Early Medicaid Expansions" (Journal article; 10 pages)
Benjamin Sommers, Genevieve Kenney, and Arnold Epstein, Health Affairs, January 2014

“How Many People Have Nongroup Health Insurance?” (Issue brief; 8 pages)
Gary Claxton, Larry Levitt, Anthony Damico, and Matthew Rae, The Kaiser Family Foundation, December 2013

“The Health Reform Monitoring Survey: Addressing Data Gaps To Provide Timely Insights Into The Affordable Care Act” (Journal article; 7 pages)

“State Efforts to Promote Continuity of Coverage and Care under the Affordable Care Act” (Journal article; 9 pages)
Heather Howard and Chad Shearer, Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law, September 2013

Conference Updates

Abstracts are now being accepted for AcademyHealth’s State Health Research and Policy Interest Group Meeting. This meeting is held in conjunction with AcademyHealth’s Annual Research meeting being held in San Diego on June 8-10, 2014. Abstracts are due February 14, 2014. View the Call for Abstracts.

Calls for Papers, Upcoming Conferences

View a comprehensive list of upcoming conferences and workshops.

Call for Proposals

View the new Call for Proposals issued by the State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE) program for grant information and application instructions.