**Announcements**

**SHARE Findings Published in Health Services Research**

Dr. Carole Roan Gresenz, Senior Economist at RAND Corporation, published findings from a SHARE-funded research project led by Dr. Jose Escarce, Professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. "Take-Up of Public Insurance and Crowd-Out of Private Insurance under Recent CHIP Expansions to Higher Income Children," was published in *Health Services Research* and examines the coverage effects of expanding eligibility for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to children in families between 200 and 400 percent of the federal poverty level. The authors observe limited uptake of public coverage among children in these income groups, with some crowd-out of private insurance coverage.

**Lynn Blewett Presents at NGA Conference**

SHADAC Director Lynn Blewett presented, "Planning for Expansion Populations - Demographic Data Sources" at the National Governors Association's Planning for Expansion Populations Meeting on April 19, 2012, Minneapolis, MN. This presentation discussed the numbers and characteristics of those who will be newly eligible for Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act and how this varies across states. She also highlighted SHADAC's Data Center for quick estimates of insurance coverage by state and ACA income guidelines.

**Kathleen Call Presents at Health Equity Conference**

SHADAC Investigator Kathleen Call presented "Barriers to Care among Publicly Insured Adults," at the Health Equity Conference, Eliminating Health Disparities Conference, hosted by the University of Minnesota's Center for Health Equity, Program in Health Disparities Research, and Minnesota Center for Cancer Collaborations, April 24, 2012 in St. Paul,
A Comparative Analysis of Health Policy Microsimulation Models

Briefs on Student Health Insurance Coverage

The Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) released two briefs written by SHADAC researchers that address student health insurance coverage.

- "The Value of Health Insurance for Students in Higher Education" presents the value of health insurance coverage, a profile of coverage patterns for higher education students, reviews options for students to obtain coverage, and discusses recommended benefit design considerations.

- "Student Health Insurance Plans: Balance Benefits and Premiums for Success" describes the current environment for student health insurance plans, advantages and limitations of these plans, the value of health insurance coverage for student health and well-being, the risk exposure that uninsured students face, and the burden that this can impose on institutions of higher education.

Remembering Rick Brown

We sadly announce that E. Richard (Rick) Brown, the founding director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, passed away on April 20, 2012. Rick was a nationally recognized public health leader who advocated for health care reform and pioneered the collection and broad dissemination of health survey data to influence policy. He collaborated with SHADAC and many state health policy analysts, making a huge contribution to our field. He will be missed. Commemorations and further information are at www.rememberingrick.com.

Conference updates

- SHADAC Senior Research Fellow Lacey Hartman will present on state variation in medical out-of-pocket spending at the Population Association of America's Annual Meeting, May 3-4 in
San Francisco, CA. This work examines new data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) to examine high burden spending for health care for families across the states.

- SHADAC Investigator Kathleen Call will present "Increasing response rates in cell frames: Results from an incentive and voicemail experiment at the Annual Conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, May 18 in Orlando, FL. This work presents the results of a survey response incentive experiment conducted as part of the 2011 Minnesota Health Access Survey.

- AcademyHealth’s State Health Research and Policy (SHRP) Interest Group will host its annual meeting on Saturday, June 23 at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin in Orlando, FL.

Resources

Brief on Reform Implications for Native Americans and Alaska Natives

The State Health Reform Assistance Network (State Network) released "Implications of Health Reform for American Indian and Alaska Native Populations." This policy brief outlines Affordable Care Act (ACA) provisions that affect AI/AN populations and provides strategies to help states and other key stakeholders fully realize the potential of reform to improve the health and health care of these people. Topics include coverage expansion; state outreach to and engagement with federally recognized tribal groups; and opportunities to fill gaps in the organization and financing of care. The State Network is an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to provide in-depth technical support to states to maximize coverage gains as they implement key provisions of the ACA.

Child Disparities Data

The Data Resource Center for Child & Adolescent Health (DRC), housed in the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) at Oregon Health & Science University, released new estimates from the 2009/10 National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) and the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs (NS-CSHCN). The DRC website allows users to compare important key indicators and
outcomes for CSHCN by race/ethnicity, highest educational level in the household, and two new measures of complexity. The site provides estimates for a variety of health indicators, with "snapshot" reports available for each state.

**ASPE Brief on Understanding Medicaid Participation Rates**

The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation released "Understanding Participation Rates in Medicaid: Implications for the Affordable Care Act". This brief reviews current research on participation rates now and after reform implementation, with discussion of methodological approaches, a review of published participation rate estimates prior to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and enrollment projections upon ACA implementation.

**News from the States**

**Colorado Site Visit Report**

The Urban Institute released "ACA Implementation-Monitoring and Tracking: Colorado Site Visit Report." This site visit report is part of a comprehensive monitoring and tracking project to examine the implementation and effects of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in ten states. The quantitative component of the project will produce analyses of the effects of the ACA on coverage, health expenditures, affordability, access, and premiums in the states and nationally.

**Kansas Briefs on Employers and Health Insurance; Medicaid Managed Care Proposal**

The Kansas Health Institute released two new briefs.

- "What the Affordable Care Act Could Mean for Kansas Employers and Health Insurance" examines the Affordable Care Act’s provisions for employers and how these rules might alter the system of employment-based insurance in Kansas. Data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey are used to profile current offer rates among different size employers in Kansas.

- "KanCare: Key Elements of the Medicaid Managed Care..."
Proposal. This issue brief examines a proposal by Gov. Sam Brownback’s administration to change the structure and operations of the $2.8 billion Kansas Medicaid program. The Brownback administration estimates KanCare will reduce projected increases in Medicaid spending by $853 million during its first five years, in large part by coordinating and improving the quality of health care for people with chronic illnesses.

Minnesota Medicare Profile

Stratis Health released "Profile of Medicare in Minnesota," a report on the state’s Medicare services, beneficiaries and providers. The report shows that 15% of Minnesota’s population is a Medicare beneficiary, similar to the national average. Substantially more are enrolled in Medicare Advantage programs, at 44.4% compared to 25.6% nationally. And 41% of the state’s Medicare beneficiaries live in rural areas, compared to 30% of the population.

Visit SHADAC's blog for regular updates and commentary

- Read our latest blog posts
- Forward this email to a colleague
- Follow @shadac and @LynnBlewett on Twitter
- Invite your colleagues to stay up-to-date on SHADAC’s resources by signing up for our e-mail list

These updates include our bi-weekly newsletter; webinars on data, evaluation, and reporting related to Affordable Care Act implementation; and other resources pertinent to state health policy.

SHADAC is funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help states monitor rates of health insurance coverage and to understand factors associated with uninsurance. Visit us online at www.shadac.org

SHARE is a National Program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to fund, synthesize and disseminate evaluations of state health reform. SHARE operates out of SHADAC. For more information, visit SHARE’s web site, www.statereformevaluation.org.

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