shadac
STATE HEALTH ACCESS DATA ASSISTANCE CENTER

2024

ANNUAL
REPORT

A NOTE FROM SHADAC'S DIRECTOR

Elizabeth Lukanen, MPH

As we negotiate a rapidly shifting policy landscape, one constant is the need for data and analysis that is trusted, unbiased, and flexible. In 2024, SHADAC contributed data and evidence to inform state and federal health policy across a huge range of topics – from health insurance affordability and the Medicaid unwinding to cannabis policy and improved demographic data collection. We have supported advocates, the press, state legislators, and federal officials, providing inputs to weigh different policy options quickly, monitor operations, and make rapid implementation decisions. As we look to the future, the questions might change, but SHADAC is committed to serving as a leading source of trusted state health policy data and information aimed at fostering greater health equity.

Elizabeth Lukanen

SHADAC's Founder and longtime Director, Dr. Lynn Blewett, announced her decision to begin a phased retirement in November 2024, with Elizabeth Lukanen stepping into the role of Director on January 1, 2025. Dr. Blewett's work leaves a lasting impact on both the University and the many students and staff who have had the privilege of working with her. Her dedication to collaboration has led to a work environment here at SHADAC that embraces different perspectives, creating a thriving health policy center aimed at bridging the gap between research and policy. Dr. Jean Abraham, Professor, and Division Head at UMN's School of Public Health, Division of Health Policy and Management will serve as SHADAC's faculty advisor. Her knowledge, guidance, and support has been, and will continue to be, pivotal to SHADAC's success.

OUR TEAM

STAFF

Lacey Hartman
Senior Research Fellow

Robert Hest
Senior Research Fellow

Grace Liu
Research Analyst

Natalie Schwehr Mac Arthur
Senior Research Associate

Jessica Ngoboka
Research Dissemination Coordinator

Colin Planalp
Associate Director for Emerging Health Policy Issues

Andrea Stewart
Research Fellow

Pam Suneson
Coordinator

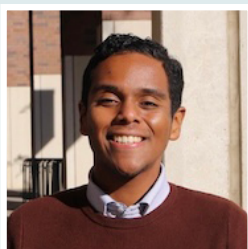**Elliot Walsh**
Research Dissemination Coordinator

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Emily Zylla
Senior Research Fellow

Karen Turner
Senior Data Scientist

STUDENTS

Jeffrey Barrera
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Hannah Ehrlich
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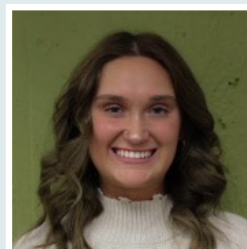
Tatiana "Annie" Gowlovech
Research Assistant
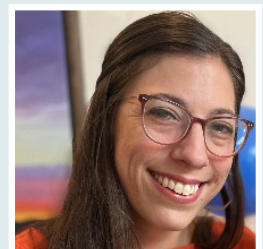
Claire McGlave
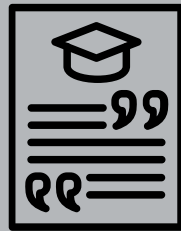*PhD Student*

2024 SHADAC SNAPSHOT

50 BLOGS
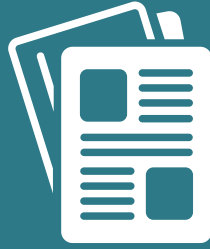
24 PUBLICATIONS
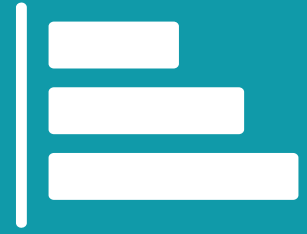
44 MEASURES ON SHC

60 MEDIA MENTIONS

144 CITATIONS

142 SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

17 STAFF & STUDENTS

1 TEAM AWARD

1 FALL COLORS WALK

In this report, we will delve into a selection of SHADAC projects, publications, and partnerships from 2024. To see all of our work from this year, visit our website at www.shadac.org.

Jump to:
Insurance Coverage, Medicaid, & the Unwinding
State Health Compare
State & Federal Survey Expertise
Commitment to Minnesota
Partnerships & Collaboration
Health Equity
Acknowledgments

INSURANCE COVERAGE, MEDICAID, & THE UNWINDING

Using a variety of data sources and our team's wide ranging expertise, SHADAC continues to be a leader in understanding and reporting on insurance coverage in the U.S. With particular expertise in Medicaid/CHIP policy and uninsurance, this year we continued our focus on the Medicaid unwinding as well as providing guidance on access to and cost of employer sponsored insurance (ESI).

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

A Post-Pandemic Look at the Cost of Employer-Sponsored Insurance (ESI) Coverage: Data from the 2023 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)

Unwinding Ends, but States' Reporting of Medicaid Renewal Data Continues: State Health & Value Strategies (SHVS) Cross-Post

U.S. Census Bureau Data Explained: Breaking Down 2023 Health Insurance Coverage Estimates from the ACS & CPS, featuring a Q&A with a Census Bureau Expert — In addition to discussing 2023 health insurance data, this webinar saw SHADAC researchers walk through how to access the data and examples of how to use it to answer research questions.

STATE HEALTH COMPARE

Analysts and policymakers can use SHADAC's tool State Health Compare (SHC), supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), to view measures of insurance coverage, health care cost, health outcomes, and more. This year, we focused on increasing available breakdowns for many measures, including adding more options for race/ethnicity disaggregation, along with breakdowns by sexual orientation. We added new, timely, and relevant measures (e.g., Pre-existing Conditions, Food Insecurity, Child Vaccinations), and provided consistent updates to over 40 measures using more than 17 different data sources.

44 MEASURES

25 AVAILABLE BREAKDOWNS

21 PRODUCTS USING SHC
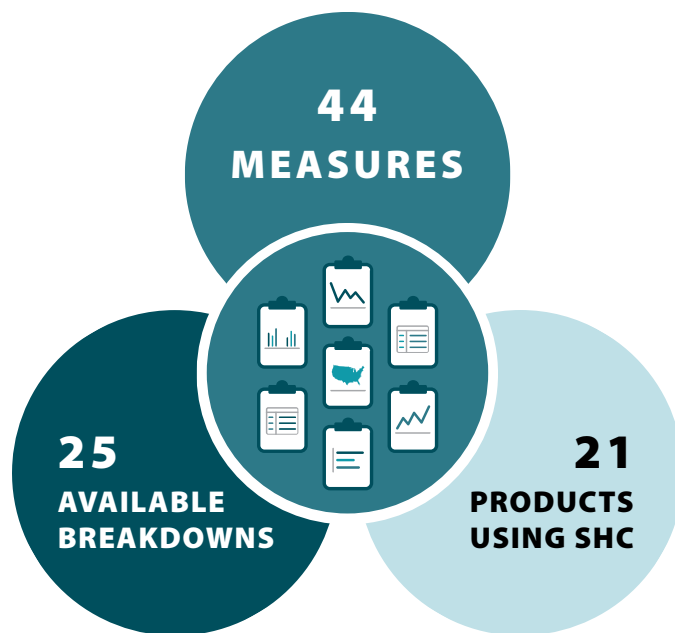
NEWLY ADDED MEASURE HIGHLIGHT: PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

Percent of adult population in 2023 with pre-Affordable Care Act automatically declinable pre-existing conditions for each coverage type

Available breakdowns: coverage type, education, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation

Legend: Private | Public | Uninsured | Employer/Military | Individual | Medicaid/CHIP | Medicare

Percent

United States:
- 36.4%
- 48.6%
- 30.4%
- 36.7%
- 35.3%
- 44.6%
- 59.6%
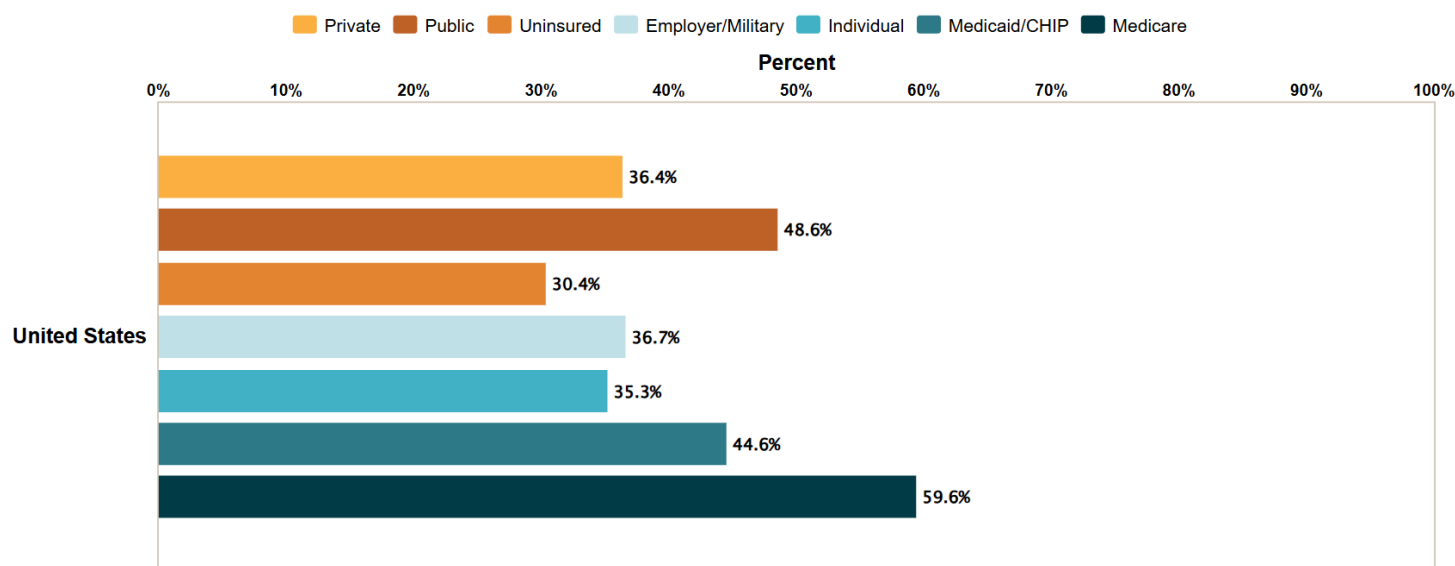
Source: SHADAC analysis of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) public use files

STATE & FEDERAL SURVEY EXPERTISE

SHADAC has nationally recognized expertise in the collection and use of survey data, specializing in using survey data to monitor health care trends and to conduct policy analysis and evaluation.

Along with technical assistance to states and organizations, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) support, commentary on proposed survey updates, and tracking and using emerging surveys/data sources, this year we worked with and created products using the following:

- **AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS)**
- **STATE SURVEYS**
- **BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (BRFSS)**
- **NATIONAL HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY (NHIS)**
- **CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY (CPS)**
- **MEDICAL EXPENDITURE PANEL SURVEY (MEPS)**

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SURVEY EXPERTISE

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

Comparing Federal Government Surveys That Count the Uninsured: 2023 — Our expertise on this wide range of surveys allows us to compare uninsurance estimates between surveys to better understand the overall landscape of the uninsured in the U.S.
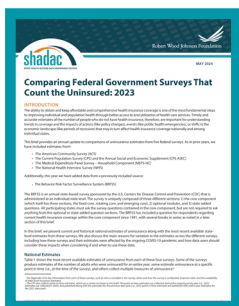
SURVEY DATA SEASON by shadac

NEW this year: Survey Data Season 2024 Hub Page — A one-stop-shop for the latest SHADAC products featuring survey data analysis and commentary, and updated release schedule dates for a variety of surveys.

Data Expertise Beyond Surveys

For State Health Compare and a number of other projects, SHADAC researchers frequently use a number of data sources beyond surveys, including data from the CDC WONDER database, Bureau of Labor Statistics data, and National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) data.

Changing Dynamics in the Opioid Crisis Since the COVID-19 Pandemic — For example, our brief on the opioid crisis since the pandemic analyzes drug overdose death rates using NVSS data.

COMMITMENT TO MINNESOTA

SHADAC is proud to support and highlight Minnesotan health policy efforts and research. This year, along with our work assisting the Minnesota Equitable Health Care Task Force, we provided updates to our Minnesota Community and Uninsured Profile along with continued work on the Minnesota Health Access Survey (MNHA).

BCBS COMMUNITY AND UNINSURED PROFILE

Minnesota Community and Uninsured Profile Updated to Include 2022 American Community Survey Estimates — We have created and maintained a tool that can be used to understand the uninsured population, evaluate equity work, inform strategic planning, assess community needs, develop & evaluate enrollment and outreach, and support grant writing for related and relevant programs. This tool can be customized for particular populations, states, and organizations.

MINNESOTA HEALTH ACCESS SURVEY (MNHA)

The Minnesota Health Access Survey is a survey that studies how people in Minnesota access and utilize insurance coverage and health care services. In 2023, more than 15,000 households in Minnesota were surveyed.

This survey (fielded every two years) is conducted through a partnership between SHADAC and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Official MDH reports on findings and results can be found on their website.

SHADAC researchers also use data from the MNHA to study health care access and experiences in Minnesota. For example, one blog used MNHA data to examine provider discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Minnesota.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

Collaboration is baked into the core of SHADAC - much of what we do is alongside state and federal agencies, foundations, community & health organizations, and other health policy entities. Along with the previously mentioned work and partnership with MACPAC, SHVS, and RWJF, the following are just a few products created via additional partnerships and collaborations:

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

Cannabis Research Center (CRC) — a Minnesotan legislatively funded research center based at the University of Minnesota focused on identifying public health implications of cannabis legalization.
Brief: Perceptions and Opinions Relating to Cannabis in Minnesota
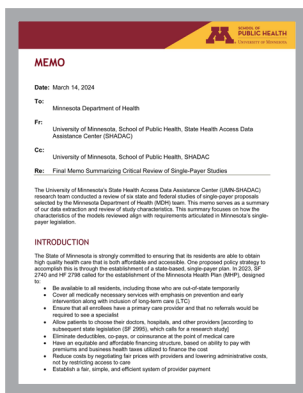
UMN SPH, Dr. Jean Abraham, and Minnesota Department of Health — SHADAC conducted a review of six state and federal studies of single-payer proposals selected by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) team. In partnership with the School of Public Health and Dr. Jean Abraham, we created a memo summarizing SHADAC's data extraction, review of study characteristics, and how the characteristics of the models reviewed align with requirements articulated in Minnesota's proposed single-payer legislation.

Language Barriers and Health Equity: The Challenges Faced by Californians with Limited English Proficiency (CHCF Cross-Post) — Authored for SHADAC's work with the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), this brief uses pooled data from the 2021 and 2022 California Health Interview Survey to provide a comprehensive overview of adults with LEP in California.

HEALTH EQUITY

By centering people and populations experiencing inequities, we aim to create products that both illuminate disparities and provide understandable data & information that can help to close those gaps. We also work directly with states, agencies, and other organizations to advise on equity considerations in survey design, evaluation efforts, data collection, and more.

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS
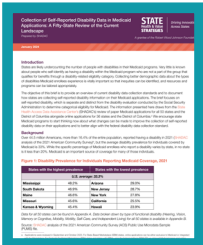
Collection of Self-Reported Disability Data in Medicaid Applications: A Fifty-State Review of the Current Landscape (SHVS Brief) — Collecting better demographic data about the types of disabilities Medicaid enrollees experience is vitally important to identify inequities and to tailor programs & resources effectively.

"American Indian 101": Understanding the history and contemporary experiences of Native people in a United States health policy context — Written by SHADAC's inaugural Health Equity Fellow, this brief is focused on health care and health insurance access among American Indian and Alaska Native people.

LGBT Health Equity: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data Resources and Information from SHADAC — In this blog, we provide a collection of resources SHADAC has published in the sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) space, including publications on SOGI data collection and gender discrimination in health care.

Determining the Need for a Medicaid Equity Monitoring Tool

With support from RWJF, SHADAC is leading a multi-phased project to assess whether a "Medicaid Equity Monitoring Tool" could be a helpful, feasible, and reliable way of tracking and advancing health equity in state Medicaid programs. In 2024's Phase 2 of this project, we created the following:

State Medicaid Member Experience Quantitative Data Scan

State Medicaid Member Experience Qualitative Data Scan

Underlying Factors of Medicaid Inequities Annotated Bibliography

Underlying Factors of Medicaid Inequities: Conversations with Experts on Racism and Medicaid

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2024 FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

Foundations

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation
- California Health Care Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Federal Agencies

- Medicaid and CHIP Payment & Access Commission
- U.S. Census Bureau

State and Local Agencies

- Hennepin County
- Minnesota Department of Health
- Minnesota Department of Human Services

Research and Consulting Organizations

- Health Leads
- MEF Associates
- Minnesota Electronic Health Record Consortium
- Princeton University, State Health & Value Strategies
- RACE for Equity
- SSRS
- UCLA Data Equity Center
- University of Minnesota, Cannabis Research Center
- University of Minnesota, Evidence-Based Practice Center
- University of Minnesota, Minnesota Population Center
- University of Minnesota, Rural Health Research Center
- University of Minnesota, School of Medicine

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