



Bridging the gap between research and policy

SHADAC Newsletter - December 9, 2009

Announcements

SHADAC Launches New Data Center

SHADAC has launched a new online tool that allows easy access to health insurance coverage estimates. The SHADAC Data Center allows users to:

- Access U.S. Census Bureau data quickly and easily.
- Utilize coverage trend data from 1987 to present, available for the first time using SHADAC's exclusive enhanced estimates.
- Translate data into customized tables and graphs that can be easily downloaded.
- Export data for use quickly, without the hassle of downloading new software.

You can explore the Data Center at www.shadac.org/datacenter.

SHADAC hosted a webinar on November 17 to demonstrate how the new Data Center can be used and how SHADAC's enhanced data can be accessed.

- [View the Data Center Webinar](#)
- [View the screencast demonstration of the Data Center](#)

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SHADAC's Mike Davern Moving to NORC

SHADAC's co-Principal Investigator and Director of Research, Mike Davern, has left SHADAC to join the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago as vice president and director of the Public Health Research Department. He is based in NORC's Chicago office.

While we at SHADAC are sad to see him leave, this is a great opportunity for Mike. We look forward to continued

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his new colleagues at NORC. He will retain an adjunct professorship at the University of Minnesota and continue to consult with SHADAC as needed.

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SHADAC Web Site Navigation Changes

SHADAC has made some main navigation changes to the web site. These include:

- SHADAC's Data Center is a main navigation link.
- A new SHAP main navigation link has been added. This leads to information on the HRSA State Health Access Program (SHAP), for which SHADAC has a contract to provide technical assistance to states that have received SHAP grants.
- The main navigation link for Charts and Tables has been changed to a secondary link within the Publications page (see left-side page navigation).
- The main navigation link for Topics has been dropped. Users can still search by topic within the publications page.

If you have problems finding a document or information, please contact SHADAC (shadac@umn.edu or 612-624-4802).

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American Community Survey Data Released

The U.S. Census Bureau has released the public use microdata sample (PUMS) file for the 2008 American Community Survey. The PUMS is a sample of all the ACS records and the single-year release allows for analysis of all Census-defined geographies with a population of 65,000 or more.

- [Download the 2008 PUMS](#)
- [View the data dictionary](#)

The IPUMS web site also has the 2008 PUMS available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>. This site will allow you to download a limited data set (i.e., only the variables you need) that is harmonized with previous years of the ACS.

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2007 MEPS-HC Data Released

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released the 2007 full-year consolidated data file from the

(MEPS-HC).

- [Download 2007 MEPS-HC file](#)

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Publications

Technical Briefs Released

SHADAC has released three new technical briefs:

- "[Estimating SCHIP/Medicaid Eligible but Not Enrolled at the County Level](#)" describes a process for estimating the number of SCHIP/Medicaid eligible but not enrolled children in all of a state's counties.
- "[Small Area Estimation Technique for Oklahoma](#)" describes the small area estimation technique employed by SHADAC for the 2008 Oklahoma Health Care Insurance and Access Survey (OHIS). The analysis was used to develop county-level estimates of uninsurance based on data from the 2008 OHIS.
- "[SHADAC-Enhanced CPS Health Insurance Coverage Estimates](#)" outlines the enhancements applied by SHADAC to develop the harmonized time series of health insurance coverage estimates using the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS). This was done to account for methodological changes to the CPS. This brief complements the tool tips in SHADAC's new Data Center.

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Presentations

SHADAC Data Center Webinar

On November 17 SHADAC hosted a webinar introducing users to our new Data Center. The recording of the webinar is posted on SHADAC's website.

- [View the Data Center webinar](#)

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SHADAC at APPAM Research Conference

SHADAC researchers participated in the Association for Public

conference held November 5-7 in Washington, DC. The conference theme was "Evidenced Based Policy Making in the Post-Bush/Clinton Era."

Kathleen Call was a discussant in the panel, "Insights into Health Insurance Coverage from Linked Data."

- [View Kathleen's presentation](#)
- [View abstracts from the panel](#)

Elizabeth Lukanen chaired the panel, "Using State Evidence to Inform State and National Health Policy."

- [View abstracts from the panel](#)

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News from the States

Colorado

The Colorado Health Institute has released the first issue brief released from the 2008-09 Colorado Household Survey (COHS). The survey was initiated in November 2008 to collect information about the health insurance status of Coloradans. The brief provides a comprehensive overview of survey results and shows that 13.8% of the state's population was uninsured at the time of the survey.

- [View the Colorado brief](#)

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Massachusetts

Health insurance coverage estimates from the 2009 Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey show that 2.9% of the state population is uninsured. This is unchanged from the 2008 study, which showed 2.6% uninsured. Results were released in October by the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy in the report "[Estimates of Health Insurance Coverage in Massachusetts from the 2009 Massachusetts Health Insurance Survey](#)."

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South Carolina

The South Carolina Public Health Institute has released two publications relating to health insurance coverage estimates in the state and the impact on policy making. "[Executive](#)

[South Carolina](#)" was released in August. This was followed by an update in November that utilized estimates from the 2008 American Community Survey, "[Data Brief: Update on Sources of Data on the Uninsured in South Carolina.](#)"

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NCSL Provides Legislative Action Resource

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has developed a useful state resource web page, "[Access to Health Care: State Legislation.](#)" This page provides a continually updated chart of legislative attempts by state, providing a landscape of the state action related to access to health care.

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Reform Updates

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NAHSP) has developed a resource help state policymakers understand the implications of federal reforms and the sometimes complex implications of seemingly simple federal provisions. "[Role of States in National Health Care Reform](#)" is a web-based portal for publications and information pertinent to the state-level impact of federal health reform legislation. The site currently has four relevant publications, the most recent being, "[A State Policymakers' Guide to Federal Health Reform - Part I: Anticipating How Federal Health Reform Will Affect State Roles.](#)"

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