STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES FROM THE NHIS RESTRICTED DATA: ANALYSIS TO SUPPORT STATES IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF THE ACA

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University of Minnesota, SHADAC

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FCSM, Washington, DC
Background

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has made significant changes in health insurance coverage and health care systems across the U.S.

States responsible for implementing many of the key elements

State program administrators and policymakers need reliable state-level data
Data Needs to Evaluate the ACA

Rich data on health care access, utilization, affordability, and health insurance coverage

State-representative samples

Timely

Study changes over time
National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)

Key data source for monitoring health and health care use of the US population since 1957

Conducted annually by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

In 2011, added new questions for monitoring the ACA’s impact

Sample augmentation
  • Uninsured estimates now available for all states
Challenges of Using the NHIS for State-Level Analysis

State-level identifiers are not available on public use files; access restricted to a NCHS or Census Research Data Center

Available sample weights do not account for state population totals and characteristics

- Explored creating state-level weights, but did not have enough information
Project Goals

Expand the role of NHIS in helping states to evaluate and monitor health reform

Produce state-level estimates and make these publicly available via SHADAC’s Data Center

Submitted a proposal to conduct work at the University of Minnesota’s Census Research Data Center (MnRDC)
Data Linking

IHIS data* + Restricted NHIS data

Merged by NCHS

Integrated Health Interview Series – Harmonized NHIS data produced by the Minnesota Population Center and SHADAC (www.ihis.us/ihis)
RDC PROCESS
Creation: **1-3 months**

Approval/Revisions: **6-12 weeks**
Proposal

SSS

After SSS forms have been submitted: 4-6 weeks
Supplement any forms for the RDC

Create analyses programs using public data
1. Prepare public files (*researcher*): **2-4 weeks**

2. Send public data file to NCHS

3. Restricted files merged onto public files (by NCHS): **2-4 weeks**

4. Revisions: **2-4 weeks**
Getting acquainted: 1 week

Analyses: time varies by project

*Note:* Max time allotted → 3 years from date project is approved
Proposal

Paperwork & File Prep

Inside the RDC

SSS

Data Merging

Releasing Output

Strict requirements!
1. Cells with < 5
2. Formatting
3. No intermediate output

Preparation: **2-3 weeks**

After requested: **3-4 weeks**
Separate review of materials (e.g., journal articles and tables for websites)

After requested: 2-4 weeks
Create customized reports on state-level health insurance coverage, access, and cost with Data Center, from State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC)
Maps & Charts

Step 1: Choose an Indicator by Topic or by Data Source?

Step 2: Select an indicator.

Access to Care
- Had Usual Source of Medical Care Other than Emergency Department in Past Year by Age
- No Trouble Finding Doctor in Past Year by Age
- Told that Provider Does Accept Insurance Type in Past Year by Age

Health Care Utilization
- Had General Doctor or Provider Visit in Past Year by Age
- Had Visit to Emergency Department in Past Year by Age
- Spent the Night in Hospital in Past Year by Age

Affordability of Health Care
- Needed but Delayed Medical Care Due to Cost in Past Year by Age
- Needed but Did Not Get Medical Care Due to Cost in Past Year by Age
- Trouble Paying Medical Bills or Paying Off Bills Over Time in Past Year by Age
- Made Changes to Medical Drugs Because of Cost in Past Year by Age

Insurance Coverage by Demographics
- Age
Needed but Did Not Get Medical Care Due to Cost in Past Year by Age

Age: 0-64
Single Year: 2013; Data Type: Percent

Age: 0-64

Sort by: Location | Lowest Value | Highest Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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SORT BY: Location | Lowest Value | Highest Value
Needed but Did Not Get Medical Care Due to Cost in Past Year by Age

Age: 0-64
Single Year: 2013; Data Type: Percent (include margin of error)

Sort by: Location | Lowest Value | Highest Value

- Alabama: 5.6%
- Alaska: 5.8%
- Arizona: 11.5%
- Arkansas: 8.2%
- California: 6.9%
- Colorado: 5.4%
- Connecticut: 5.3%
- Delaware: 4.1%
- Dist. of Columbia: 3.0%
- Florida: 8.3%
- Georgia: 8.4% (MOE 1.6%)
- Hawaii: N/A
- Idaho: 9.2%
Had Visit to Emergency Department in Past Year by Age

Age: 0-64
Single Year: 2013; Data Type: Percent

- 8.2% - 14.0%
- 14.1% - 17.7%
- 17.8% - 21.0%
- 21.1% - 26.3%
- Not Applicable

Map of the United States showing states colored according to the percentage of individuals aged 0-64 who had a visit to an emergency department in 2013.
Trouble Paying Medical Bills or Paying Off Bills Over Time in Past Year by Age

Location: 3 Selected
Age: 0-64
Single Year: 2011 to 2013; Data Type: Percent

Age: 0-64

Dist. of Columbia
Maryland
Virginia
Had General Doctor or Provider Visit in Past Year by Age

Location: Dist. of Columbia
Age: 4 Selected
Single Year: 2013; Data Type: Percent

Age: 4 Selected

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-18</td>
<td>87.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-64</td>
<td>61.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>85.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>68.5%</td>
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Dist. of Columbia
## Minnesota

**Indicators:** 1 selected  
**Year:** Most Recent; **Data Type:** Percent and Margin of Error

### Needed but Delayed Medical Care Due to Cost in Past Year by Age (2013)

<table>
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**Source:** SHADAC analysis of National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) data, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The NHIS sample is drawn from the Integrated Health Interview Survey (IHIS, MN Population Center and SHADAC). Data were analyzed at the University of Minnesota’s Census Research Data Center because state identifiers and continuous income were needed to produce results and these variables are restricted.
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Next Steps

Add 2014 estimates

Add measures by coverage type
  • Uninsured, private, and public
Resources

SHADAC’s Data Center
• http://datacenter.shadac.org/

SHADAC brief on NHIS questionnaire changes

Integrated Health Interview Series (IHIS)
• https://www.ihis.us/ihis/
Contact Information

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