EARLY IMPACT OF THE ACA ON HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE IN MINNESOTA

Lynn Blewett, PhD and Elizabeth Lukanen, MPH
State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC)
University of Minnesota

Presentation to MNsure Board of Directors
June 18, 2014

Support for this work was provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s State Health Reform Assistance Network.

Acknowledgement of Support

• This study was done at the request of MNsure
• Analysis was conducted independently by SHADAC at the University of Minnesota
• Support for this work was provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s State Health Reform Assistance Network (State Network)
Motivation for this Study

- In January, Minnesotans gained access to new health insurance coverage options through the ACA.
- Data released by MNsure signaled growth in coverage (227,500 enrolled in coverage by May 30).
- Questions remained:
  - How many *uninsured* gained coverage?
  - Were there shifts in where people were getting coverage?
- Impact of the ACA will vary by state and a Minnesota specific assessment of the early impacts was needed.
Monitoring Health Insurance Coverage

- Use of existing state and federal survey data
- The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) conducts a bi-annual household survey (Minnesota Health Access Survey, MNHA) to monitor trends in coverage and access
- MNHA survey results released in February 2014 (reflecting 2013 baseline):
  - 8.2% uninsured rate
  - 55.5% private coverage, 31.1% public coverage
- Next MNHA survey will be in the field summer 2015, reflecting coverage for 2014, estimates released in early 2016

Time Frame: Surveys Used to Monitor Coverage Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Data Released</th>
<th>Reflects Coverage for</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Minnesota Health Access Survey</td>
<td>F 2013</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F 2015</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F 2015</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• American Community Survey</td>
<td>F 2014</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F 2015</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• NHIS Early Release</td>
<td>Sp 2014</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sp 2015</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Federal Survey Data w/state estimates

Earliest data on distribution of coverage not available until 2015
SHADAC’s Approach

- Estimated distribution of coverage for 5.4 million Minnesotans
- Data from public and private health plans
  - Voluntary participation, aggregate counts only
  - Used enrollment counts and direct estimates where available
- Data on uninsured from MNHA survey’s most current estimate

---

SHADAC’s Approach

- Begin with total MN population, count the number of people with each type of coverage, for which data are available
- Solve for the unknowns (shown in orange)
**Timeline: ACA Impact Analysis**

- Assembled a picture of coverage at two points in time to analyze shifts in the aggregate distribution of coverage
- October 1, 2013 – May 1, 2014

**Data Sources**

- **Total Population**: U.S. Census Bureau
- **Private Group**: Minnesota Council of Health Plans
- **SHOP**: MNsure
- **Private Nongroup**: Minnesota Council of Health Plans
- **Qualified Health Plan Enrollment**: MNsure
- **High-Risk Pools**: MCHA & CMS
- **Medical Assistance & MNCare**: DHS
- **Medicare**: CMS
- **Uninsured**: MNHA Survey (MDH)
## Shifts in Minnesota Health Insurance Coverage

**September 30, 2013 - May 1, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of insurance</th>
<th>Number of people</th>
<th>Percent of population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private insurance</strong></td>
<td>September 30, 2013</td>
<td>May 1, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group insurance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fully-insured (non-SHOP)</td>
<td>948,925</td>
<td>908,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-insured</td>
<td>2,113,828</td>
<td>2,146,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHOP</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, group insurance</td>
<td>3,062,753</td>
<td>3,056,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nongroup insurance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct purchase</td>
<td>262,301</td>
<td>273,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCHA</td>
<td>25,506</td>
<td>8,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal high-risk pool (PCIP)</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNsure</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>42,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, nongroup insurance</td>
<td>288,540</td>
<td>324,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, private insurance</td>
<td>3,351,293</td>
<td>3,381,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public insurance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assistance</td>
<td>622,044</td>
<td>834,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MinnesotaCare</td>
<td>131,926</td>
<td>75,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare</td>
<td>879,389</td>
<td>896,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, state programs</td>
<td>753,970</td>
<td>909,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, public insurance</td>
<td>1,633,359</td>
<td>1,805,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Uninsured</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninsured</td>
<td>445,000</td>
<td>264,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total population</strong></td>
<td>5,429,653</td>
<td>5,451,350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of Results

Between September 30, 2013 and May 1, 2014:

- 180,500 gained access to health insurance coverage
- Drop in uninsurance rate from 8.2% to 4.9%
- 40.6% decrease in uninsured
- Largely driven by an increase in the number of Minnesotans enrolled in state health insurance programs
- Coverage in the private health insurance market also increased (in and outside MNsure)
Putting Findings in Context

- Findings are consistent with national analysis of ACA
  - Urban Institute: 2.7 percentage point drop in uninsurance among nonelderly adults (Sept to March)
  - RAND: 4.7 percentage point drop in uninsurance among nonelderly adults (Sept to March)
  - Gallup: 3.7 percentage point drop in uninsurance among nonelderly adults (Sept to March)
- Findings are consistent with analysis of Massachusetts’ reforms, which were similar to the ACA
  - 5.9% percentage point drop in uninsurance among adults in the first year (2007)

Significance of Findings

Unprecedented drop in uninsurance rate

Trends in the Rate of Uninsurance in Minnesota

Source: Data points 2001 to 2013 - MDH Minnesota Health Care Access Survey
Significance of Findings

- Research by MDH has long indicated that roughly two-thirds of uninsured Minnesotans were eligible for public health insurance coverage
  - Sizeable enrollment increases in Medical Assistance signals that open enrollment activities were effective in reaching this group
- Findings represent one of the first state-level assessments of the early impact of the ACA on health insurance coverage

Future Research

- Findings represent an early look at the coverage impact of the ACA in Minnesota
- Coverage is dynamic and important policy questions remain
  - Characteristics of remaining uninsured
  - Increase in ESI by size of employer
  - Percent of people enrolled through MNsure who were previously uninsured
  - Persistent barriers to access and use of services
MNHA Call-Back Survey

- Collaboration between SHADAC and MDH
- Based on 2013 MN Health Access Survey (MNHA)
- Recontacting respondents who reported they were uninsured or in the nongroup market before open enrollment
- Survey focus
  - Coverage changes, enrollment in/out of MNsure, motivations for enrolling in coverage or remaining uninsured, assessing changes in access to care

Thank you

- This analysis was possible due to Minnesota’s strong data infrastructure and voluntary data sharing by the following organizations:
  - Minnesota Council of Health Plans (MCHP) and its members
  - MNsure, Minnesota’s Health Insurance Marketplace
  - Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS)
  - Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA)
Survey Expertise
- Sociologists
- Health Services Research

Policy Analysis
- Economists
- Public Health Analytics

State and Federal Data Expertise
- Statisticians
- Demography

Program Evaluation
- Sociologists
- Program Evaluation

What we do
- Conduct health policy research
- Translate research to inform policy
- Leverage federal and state data resources to inform research and policy
- Train researchers & policy analysts

Research Areas
- Health insurance coverage
- Access to care
- Safety net & health disparities
- Monitoring & evaluation of the ACA
- Health system reform
- Medicaid
Resources

Early Impact of the ACA on Coverage in Minnesota

SHADAC Data Center
http://www.shadac.org/datacenter

Sign up for SHADAC newsletter
http://www.shadac.org/content/stay-updated

SHADAC Blog
Census CPS Changes Were Based on Careful Research in Order to Improve Coverage Estimates

SHADAC Data Resources for Monitoring the ACA
http://www.shadac.org/content/resources-monitoring-aca

ACA Insurance Marketplace Enrollment Reports
http://www.shadac.org/publications/insurance-marketplace-enrollment-reports

Contact Information

Lynn A. Blewett, PhD
Professor and Center Director
blewe001@umn.edu
612-624-4802