The Affordable Care Act at Year Six: Coverage, Care and Health?

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ACA: Coverage, Care and Health?

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Uninsured Rate Among the Nonelderly Population, 1995-2015

Source: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, reported in
http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/health_policy/trends_hc_1968_2011.htm#table01 and
Non-Elderly Uninsured Rate in ACA Medicaid Expansion vs. Non-Expansion States

Source: Gallop/Healthways 2016
Sources of ACA Coverage Gains

- Medicaid woodwork: 40%
- Exchange premium subsidies: 40%
- Medicaid expansion: 20%

Source: Frean, Gruber and Sommers 2016
ACA Medicaid expansion effects on care

- 18% increase in regular care for chronic condition (KY, AR vs TX)\(^1\)
- 25% reduction in skipped medications due to cost (KY, AR vs TX)\(^1\)
- 21% reduction in trouble paying medical bills (KY, AR vs TX)\(^1\)
- 54% reduction in ED as usual source of care (KY, AR vs TX)\(^1\)
  ...but 38% increase in ED use because office visit unavailable\(^1\)
- 50% decrease in uninsured hospital discharges\(^2\)
- 24% decrease in hospital uncompensated care costs\(^2\)

Source: (1) Sommers, Blendon and Orav 2016; (2) Dranove Garthwaite and Ody 2016
But can we expect health gains from ACA expansions?
ACA creates new incentives & infrastructure for population health activities

- Coverage expansion: ability to redeploy charity-care resources
- Hospital community benefit requirements
- Insurer and employer incentives
- Value-based payment models for hospitals, physicians
- CMS Innovation Center demonstrations
- Prevention & Public Health Fund
- National public health accreditation standards
Changes in organizational contributions to population health activities by ACA Medicaid expansion status, 2012-2014

Source: Mays et al. 2016
Long-run health effects attributable to multi-sector population health activities

IV Estimates on Mortality, 1998-2014

Models also control for racial composition, unemployment, health insurance coverage, educational attainment, age composition, and state and year fixed effects. N=1019 community-years

Source: Mays et al. 2016
Cautionary note: Medicaid crowd-out of other beneficial health spending

Source: Mays et al. 2016
For More Information

Systems for Action
National Coordinating Center
Systems and Services Research to Build a Culture of Health

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