

Informing Health Initiatives: Summary of Requests and Assistance Provided

Source of Request	Request	Date	Staff Responsible	Assistance Provided
Senate (rept. 110-410) and House of Representatives Appropriation Committees	Study comparing the economic burden of an early diagnosis to that of a later diagnosis	2/09	John Fleishman	Prepared AHRQ Report to Congress: <i>Estimate of the Economic Burden of Late Entry Into Medical Care for HIV Infection</i> . A copy of the report is available upon request.
Office of Health Reform, DHHS	Update of Content in MEPS Chartbook No. 13	3/09	Steven Machlin James Kirby	Prepared report, <i>Health Care in Urban and Rural Areas, Combined Years 2004-2006</i> : http://www.ahrq.gov/data/meps/chbook13up.htm . Findings featured in report <i>Hard Times in the Heartland: Health Care in Rural America</i> , outlining the health care challenges facing rural communities: http://healthreform.gov/reports/hardtimes/ .
Office of Health Reform, DHHS	Information on the medical expenditures, coverage, and access to care of the near elderly	4/09	Jessica Vistnes Philip Cooper Didem Bernard Jessica Banthin	Prepared report, <i>Near-Elderly Adults, Ages 55-64: Health Insurance Coverage, Cost and Access</i> : http://www.ahrq.gov/data/meps/mepsneareld/ .
SAMHSA/CMHS	National estimates of mental health treatment expenditures from MEPS	4/09	Samuel Zuvekas	Prepared report, <i>National Estimates of Health Insurance Coverage, Mental Health Utilization, and Spending for Low-Income Individuals</i> : http://www.ahrq.gov/data/meps/lowinc/lowinc.htm .
House Ways and Means Committee	National estimates of the uninsured and availability of employer-sponsored coverage	4/09	Steven Cohen	Provided substantive assistance and national estimates from MEPS on the long-term uninsured: http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_files/publications/st220/stat220.pdf .
Office of Health Reform, DHHS	National estimates of availability of employer-sponsored coverage and take-up	4/09	Jim Branscome Beth Crimmel Jessica Vistnes Philip Cooper	Provided national estimates from MEPS on availability of employer-sponsored coverage and employee take-up, further distinguished by establishment and employee characteristics. Descriptive statistics are available upon request.
Full House Committee on Veterans' Affairs	Expert testimony on accuracy of long-term health care projection models	4/09	Jessica Banthin	Presented written and oral testimony on the general topic of long-term health care projection models and was included on a panel that included other experts from RAND, GAO, and CRS who had reviewed the VA's Enrollee Health Care Projection Model: http://www.ahrq.gov/news/jbtest042909.htm .
Office of Health Reform, DHHS	Estimates of family-level out-of-pocket expenditures on health care services and premiums for families with group and nongroup coverage by poverty category	4/09	Didem Bernard Jessica Banthin	Provided Research Findings #29 on family-level expenditures on health care services and premiums (http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_files/publications/rf29/rf29.pdf) and Stat Brief #202 on premiums in the nongroup market (http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_files/publications/st202/stat202.pdf), as well as more disaggregated expenditure estimates by poverty and insurance (group vs. nongroup) using pooled data from recent years.

Stuart Hagen, Congressional Budget Office	Analytical MEPS data file containing immigration and documentation status variables	4/09	Tom Selden	Developed MEPS analytical file, an important microsimulation data tool that plays a critical role in determining eligibility for certain public insurance programs, including Medicaid and SCHIP. Data are available in the AHRQ Data Center.
Office of Health Reform, DHHS	Information on eligibility in the childless adult population below poverty level	4/09	Jessica Banthin Julie Hudson	Provided PUBSIM estimates and documentation in same format as Fall 2008 estimates sent to Chris Peterson of the Congressional Research Service. Descriptive statistics and documentation are available upon request.
Chris Peterson, Congressional Research Service	Information on differences between nongroup and small-group markets by State	5/09	Jessica Banthin	Provided estimates derived from MEPS that identify differences between nongroup and small-group markets by State. Descriptive statistics are available upon request.
Office of Health Reform, DHHS	National estimates of health insurance coverage and availability for women	5/09	DSER and DMS staff in CFACT	Provided MEPS-derived national estimates of health insurance coverage and availability for women. A report on women's health prominently featuring data from special runs done by DSER and DMS staff using both the MEPS HC and IC was posted on the healthreform.gov Web site: at http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/women/women.pdf .
Office of Health Reform, DHHS	Recent trends and updated estimates of out-of-pocket burdens and affordability thresholds by insurance status and poverty	5/09	Didem Bernard Jessica Banthin	Provided (1) a copy of the <i>Health Affairs</i> article on financial out-of-pocket burdens (Banthin, Cunningham, and Bernard) and updated the tables in this article using MEPS data from 2006; (2) updated estimates of affordability thresholds by income level based on the methodology in the Blumberg et al. 2006 <i>Health Affairs</i> article; and (3) a copy of the article titled "Wealth, Income and the Affordability of Health Insurance" by Bernard, Banthin, and Encinosa, which was recently published in <i>Health Affairs</i> . Descriptive statistics and copies of manuscripts are available upon request.
Office of Health Reform, DHHS	Information on gender differences in financial out-of-pocket burdens	5/09	Jessica Banthin	Provided charts on trends in financial out-of-pocket burdens, 2001 through 2005. The differences by gender were included in the healthreform.gov Web report titled: <i>Roadblocks to Health Reform: Why the Current Health Care System Does Not Work for Women</i> : http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/women/women.pdf .
Chris Peterson, Congressional Research Service	Demographics and characteristics of individuals who receive uncompensated care	5/09	Tom Selden	Provided national estimates derived from MEPS on the uninsured who could have afforded coverage but decided not to buy it and individuals with pre-existing conditions who are unable to obtain coverage. Descriptive statistics are available upon request.
Senator Bingaman's office	The number of uninsured childless adults with chronic conditions by poverty status	5/09	Jessica Vistnes	Provided national estimates derived from MEPS on the number of uninsured childless adults with chronic conditions by poverty status. Descriptive statistics are available upon request.

Requests for data and publications: Please contact Cindy Nunley at cnunley@ahrq.hhs.gov.

Notes: CFACT is Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends. CRS is Congressional Research Service. DHHS is U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. DMS is Division of Modeling and Simulation. DSER is Division of Social and Economic Research. GAO is U.S. Government Accountability Office. HC is Household Component of MEPS. IC is Insurance Component of MEPS. MEPS is Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. SAMHSA/CMHS is Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration/Center for Mental Health Services. SCHIP is State Children's Health Insurance Program. VA is U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Source: Center for Financing, Access, and Cost Trends, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.