

Study Notes

January 2007

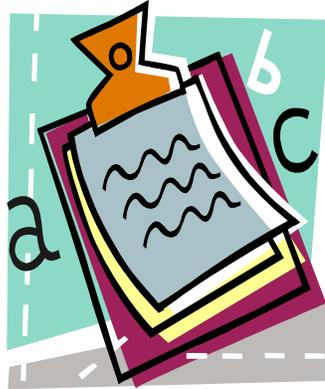
*Kansas Demonstration to
Maintain Independence and Employment*

Keeping You Up to Date

Happy New Year! *Study Notes* is a newsletter for DMIE participants. Its purpose is to help you stay informed and to thank you for being part of the study.

This issue of the newsletter provides an update on telephone surveys, focus groups, and early findings about study participants.

As always, if you have any questions about the research aspects of the Demonstration project, please



feel free to contact the University of Kansas Evaluation Team at (785) 864-3788.

A Note About Telephone Survey Questions

First, a big THANK YOU to all DMIE participants who completed the recent round of telephone surveys. We truly appreciate your time and feedback and we promise to share general findings from the surveys with you as we analyze all the data (see Study Stats on page 2).



As you all know, some of the questions on the survey ask you about your earned income and your family income. While we understand that this is sensitive information, it is critical to the study that you reply, even if you can only provide a rough estimate. We are NOT interested in finding out about specific individual's incomes but, rather, we need an overall average of income among participants for the study to be meaningful.

Numerous national studies document a phenomenon known as "underinsurance," in which people have health insurance but the out-of-pocket costs are so high relative to their income that the insurance does not truly facilitate access to healthcare and people do not get the services they need. If underinsurance can be documented among members in KHIA, that is a first step in working to have policy makers address the problem.

So, the study team is truly not trying to be intrusive, but we really do need to document participants' income. If you have any questions or concerns whatsoever about this requirement of the study, please call Jan Moore at (785) 864-3788.

Coming Soon: Focus Groups



Now that recruitment of participants for the study is complete, we can begin setting up some face-to-face focus group meetings with

you. We want to hear frank feedback from you about your experiences with the health insurance and health care systems and about what does and does not work.

We will hold these meetings in different locations across the state so that people do not have to travel far. Participants will receive a \$25 cash stipend and reimbursement for their mileage. If you checked on your application that you would be willing to participate, you should be receiving a letter sometime in February to see if you are still interested. The focus groups will probably begin sometime in March, weather allowing.

We look forward to having some meaningful and productive discussions with everyone. If you would like more information about the focus groups, please call us at (785) 864-3788.

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Newsletter brought to you by the
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New Number
1-800-362-9290



1-800-410-0699

Study Stats



Throughout the study, we want to share with you some of what we are learning about DMIE participants and their experiences. In this issue, we share some preliminary findings about employment and care-giving status among participants.

Self-employed	71%
Average hours worked per week	40 (Range 0-96)
Working less than 40 hours per week	45%
Working more than one job	21%
Caring for a disabled parent or child	17%
Average hrs spent per week on care-giving	16
Previously applied for Social Security Disability	8%

Did You Know?

Most Kansans obtain their health insurance through an employer and almost one quarter through Medicare and Medicaid. Eleven percent of all Kansans have no health insurance at all, compared to 16% of Americans nationwide.

*Figures are from 2005.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation at:

<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/cgi-bin/healthfacts.cgi?previewid=1107&action=compare>

Health Insurance Coverage in Kansas*	Percent
Employer	59%
Medicare	13%
Medicaid	10%
Individual	6%
Other public program	1%
Uninsured	11%