

Issue 4

July 2007



Study Notes

*Kansas Demonstration to
Maintain Independence and Employment*

Keeping You Up to Date

Welcome to the July issue of *Study Notes*, the newsletter for participants in the Kansas DMIE project. We hope everyone is having a good summer and keeping cool. Please don't forget to put on your sunscreen and insect repellent, wear eye protection, and keep well hydrated!



This issue of the newsletter provides an update on upcoming telephone surveys and our regular study stats section that summarizes preliminary study findings. 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.

It's Survey Time Again



Check those refrigerator magnets! The next round of study surveys begins soon. If you are in Cohort 1 (started the study in April 2006), you will take your survey in September or October. If you are in Cohort 2 (started the study in January 2007), you will take your survey in August or September.

Please ***DON'T FORGET*** to fill out and return the enclosed personal information update form as soon as possible. Doing so insures that Shorman nurses have the correct telephone number at which to contact you to schedule your survey. Also, KU needs to verify mailing addresses for control group stipend checks.

During the survey, nurses will be asking about your income, medical expenses and debt, employment, and doctor and dental visits. In order to make the survey process quicker, it may help if you gather some information beforehand. Specifically, please be ready to provide the following information:

- Your individual annual earned income and your family annual earned income (to the nearest thousand)
- Your approximate monthly out-of-pocket prescription costs, your approximate annual out-of-pocket medical costs (including premiums, co-pays, deductibles, etc.) and your family's approximate annual medical costs; total medical costs can be rounded to the nearest thousand
- Your employment effort, including the approximate number of hours you work each week and the number of hours devoted to each job if you have more than one and the total number of hours you have worked in the 30 days prior to the survey
- Your approximate number of doctor and dental visits for scheduled care, urgent or emergency care, and annual check-ups
- Whether you currently have any medical debt and, if so, about how much and for what kinds of care.

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It's Survey Time Again (continued)

The survey should take less than one hour to complete. Numerous participants have said that all the different response choices for different questions have been confusing. So, we hope to help with that problem by mailing everyone a list of the possible answer choices for each section of the survey. Once you have scheduled your survey time with Shorman nurses, we will mail you a summary of the possible responses to each section.

Please remember that we are NOT trying to be intrusive with any of these questions and that your responses are completely confidential. Because the study is about health care and employment, we simply need to track trends in participant work efforts and earnings and to know about your access to health care.

Study Stats



Throughout the study, we want to share with you some of what we are learning about DMIE participants and their experiences. If there are topics you would like to see covered here, please give us a call.

One of the early survey findings is that many participants have numerous health-related problems with activities of daily living, especially those that involve mobility. These capacities are strongly linked to the ability to live independently. Listed below are the most common limitations and the percent of total respondents who said they had difficulty.

Activity	% of Respondents with Limitation
Heavy Housework	40%
Walking	35%
Getting in and out of bed and chairs	22%
Shopping for groceries and personal items	15%
Getting outside	13%
Dressing	12%
Bathing	10%