

Study Notes

October 2006

*Kansas Demonstration to
Maintain Independence and Employment*

Keeping You Up to Date

Study Notes is a new newsletter for DMIE participants. Its purpose is to help you stay informed and to thank you for being part of the study.

The DMIE's purpose is to examine the effects of health services on disability. Specifically, we are trying to better understand the relationship between access to health care and the ability to continue working. The study will run through September 2009, but Social Security disability outcomes will be tracked for several years afterwards.

In order to test whether any intervention has an effect, it is essential to have a comparison group. If you have

agreed to participate in the DMIE as a control group member, you are making an important contribution to scientific knowledge just by following your "usual care." We could not conduct this study without you!

We regret that the necessity of having a comparison group means that not everyone can receive extra DMIE benefits. But, in order to be as fair as possible, we are providing cash stipends to compensate you for your time and effort in answering survey questions. In addition, you may eventually benefit if the study demonstrates to policy makers that providing additional services is cost effective in preventing disability.

We Hear You



During the first survey, many participants said they wanted to make the telephone surveys shorter. Beginning with your second survey, we will cut more than 50 questions and try to make the survey more relevant to your concerns. A few new questions will cover topics you have suggested, such as experiences in trying to find affordable health insurance and with medical debt.

A few of you said the \$200 stipend was almost not worth your time. Therefore, we are going to increase stipends for each additional survey and opportunities for completing them. Control group members who participate through the end of the study will receive \$1,450 total, rather than \$1,200 as previously announced. The final stipend includes your longevity bonus:

- Survey 1 \$200
- Survey 2 \$225
- Survey 3 \$250
- Survey 4 \$275
- Survey 5 \$500 (includes longevity bonus)

We truly appreciate your participation in the surveys!



New DMIE Survey Schedule

Because the DMIE was late in starting, we will need to conduct surveys every 8 months rather than every year in order to collect enough data for our analyses. We hope the increasing stipends will help offset any inconvenience this schedule change causes for you.

Please let us know if you anticipate difficulty in being available during these times. Remember that we are shortening the survey, so it should take less than an hour to complete!

New DMIE Survey Schedule		
Survey	Cohort 1	Cohort 2
1	May-Aug 2006	Dec 2006-Jan 2007
2	Jan-Feb 2007	Aug-Sept 2007
3	Sept-Oct 2007	Apr-May 2008
4	May-June 2008	Dec 2008-Jan 2009
5	Jan-Feb 2009	Aug-Sept 2009

Study Notes

**Kansas Demonstration to
Maintain Independence and
Employment**



Newsletter brought to you by the
KU DMIE Evaluation Team
1122 West Campus Rd., Rm 517
Lawrence, KS 66045-3101



Kansas Health Policy Authority

Project operated by the State of Kansas
Health Policy Authority
Jenifer Telshaw, Project Coordinator
Phone: 785-296-8016
e-mail: DMIE@khpa.ks.gov



**Kansas Health Insurance
Association** *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 findings about the demographics and health of participants in the first Cohort:

Average age: 50.6

Female 51.4%

Rural 55.9%

Self-employed 67.7%

Most common diagnoses (from
2005 insurance claims):

- Back, spinal disorders 30.5%
- Diabetes 29%
- Depression and other mental illnesses 22.9%
- Arthritis and connective tissue diseases 20.5%
- Heart disease 18.5%
- Respiratory conditions 15.3%

Most common self-reported
problems in day to day activities:

- Fatigue
- Pain
- Shortness of breath
- Mobility limitations
- Depression
- Obesity and its effects
- Difficulty with diabetes self-management

Feel free to call or email KU if
you have questions about the re-
search component of the DMIE
project: janmoore@ku.edu,
785-864-3788.



New DMIE Participants Being Recruited

Additional DMIE participants are being recruited this fall. If you were admitted to the study in spring 2006, you will be considered to be in the 1st study “cohort,” while if you are admitted in November you will be in the 2nd cohort. Both groups take the same surveys—the only difference is their timing.