Impacts of the ACA on Louisiana

Lisanne Brown, PhD, MPH
Director, Evaluation and Research
Louisiana Public Health Institute
Study Background and Purpose

To inform Population Health, Economic Policy, and health system operations from multiple perspectives:

- Survey of the general population of non-elderly Louisiana residents
  - Health Reform Monitoring Survey (Urban Institute)
- Economic impact study of hospitals and clinics
- Semi-structured interviews with clinic administrators (FQHCs and RHCs) regarding experience with Medicaid expansion to date

Focus on insurance enrollment and access to care

Funded by Baptist Community Ministries (BCM)
Key Findings

ACA role out: Patient experiences

- More people have insurance
  - 4-18% Medicaid
  - 20-12% uninsured
- Access to Care more difficult
  - Twice as many people reported having trouble finding a doctor
    - 5% in 2014 to 10% in September 2016
    - Highest among <138%FPL 7-17%
  - Increase in people abstaining from prescription meds due to cost
    - 20-25%
Key Findings

ACA role out: Economic Policy

- Sustainability of FQHCs good under ACA
  - FQHCs integral component of ACA. Congress initially dedicated $11 billion to strengthen and expand the nation’s FQHC network and recently extended this funding source through 2017.
  - Medicaid expansion will/is increasing % of insured patients

- Cost Per Patient should decrease with Medicaid expansion
  - Even at the lowest possible FMAP rate of 90% (for Medicaid expansion states post-2020), the state’s cost per Medicaid patient is estimated to be $684 versus $1,388 per patient under a non-expansion scenario.
  - Subject to macro-level forces
Key Findings

ACA role out: Health system perspectives

- What’s working well
  - Serving those in need
  - Increased sustainability of primary care services
  - Improved systems effectiveness

- Challenges
  - Coordinating with health plans on enrollment
  - Provider shortages: PC and specialty care
  - New patients have complex health issues
  - Health care utilization literacy