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The Benefits of Health Care Reform Information on Data Sources Committee on Energy and Commerce

The U.S. House of Representatives will soon vote on health care reform legislation. The Committee on Energy and Commerce has produced a series of factsheets on how the legislation will affect each congressional district in the United States. The following data sources were used in the preparation of the factsheets.

- Data on the number and percentage of individuals in each district with employer-provided health coverage, and the percentage of individuals that are uninsured: U.S. Census, *2008 American Community Survey*.
- Data on the number and percentage of individuals in each district with an income of less than 400% of the federal poverty level, qualifying them for affordability credits: U.S. Census, *2008 American Community Survey*.
- Data on the number of small businesses who would qualify to join the exchange or qualify for tax credits to help pay for providing coverage: Estimated from county level data from U.S. Census, *2006 County Business Patterns*.
- Data on the number of uninsured individuals with pre-existing conditions: Estimated from 2006 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) data on the percentage of uninsured individuals with chronic conditions and U.S. Census, *2008 American Community Survey* data on the percentage of uninsured by congressional district.
- Data on Medicare and Medicare Part D enrollment: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, *Enrollment in Prescription Drug Plans by Congressional District* (Feb. 2009). The number of seniors who hit the donut hole was based on studies showing that an estimated 24% of Part D enrollees who do not receive low-income subsidies will hit the donut hole. Kaiser Family Foundation, *The Medicare Part D Coverage Gap: Costs and Consequences in 2007* (Aug. 2008).
- Data on the number of medical bankruptcies annually in each congressional district: Estimated based on U.S. Bankruptcy Courts PACER Database. *Business and Non-business Bankruptcy* (Apr. 1, 2008 to Mar. 31, 2009); Himmelstein, D. U., Thorne, D., and Woolhandler, S., *Illness and Injury as Contributors to Bankruptcy*, Health Affairs (Feb. 2, 2005).
- Data on the number of individuals under the age of 26 in each district: U.S. Census, *2008 American Community Survey*.
- Data on the number of community health centers in each district: Health Resources and Services Administration (Mar. 2010).
- Data on the cost of uncompensated care: Hospital uncompensated care cost is computed based on audited Government Accountability Office data and hospital cost reports. Total uncompensated care cost is computed based on estimates that hospital uncompensated care accounts for 63% of the cost of all uncompensated care. Kaiser Family Foundation, *The Cost of Care for the Uninsured: What Do We Spend, Who Pays, and What Would Full Coverage Add to Medical Spending?* (2004). The health care reform legislation is estimated to cut the cost of uncompensated care by approximately 55%. Urban Institute, *The Cost of Uncompensated Care with and without Health Care Reform* (Mar. 9, 2010).