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Impact of Repealing the Health Care Reform Law Information on Data Sources

Committee on Energy and Commerce
Minority Staff

Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, has produced a series of factsheets containing information on how the repeal of the Health Care Reform Law 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*. Estimates of the number of individuals in each district who have individual insurance, and are subject to rescission, are based on state-level estimates. *Urban Institute and Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured estimates based on the Census Bureau's March 2009 and 2010 Current Population Survey*. Estimates of the number of individuals that will receive free preventive care are based on HHS estimates of the number of individuals who will be in non-grandfathered plans. HHS, *Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (2010).
- 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 individuals with pre-existing conditions: HHS, *Children and Adults with Pre-existing Conditions, by Congressional District* (2010) (online at www.hhs.gov/ociio/regulations/patient/index.html).
- Data on Medicare and Medicare Part D enrollment: CMS, *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 number of retirees who receive employer retiree coverage are from state-level data in the U.S. Census, *2008 Current Population Survey*, applied to each district based on the number of individuals of early retirement age in each district.
- Data on the number of young adults who will gain coverage in each district: Estimates are based on HHS determination that 4% of young adults will obtain coverage as a result of these provisions. HHS, *Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Dependent Coverage of Children to Age 26 under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (2010). The number of young adults under the age of 26 in each district is from the U.S. Census, *2008 American Community Survey*.

- Data on the cost of uncompensated care: Hospital uncompensated care cost is computed based on audited GAO 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 50%. Urban Institute, *The Cost of Uncompensated Care with and without Health Care Reform* (Mar. 9, 2010).