



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

May 1, 2003

PaSDC To Present Lecture on Health Care and Prescription Drug Coverage For Older Pennsylvanians

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – In the fall of 2001, the PACE/PACENET Program within the Pennsylvania Department of Aging contracted with Penn State Harrisburg's Center for Survey Research to conduct a statewide survey of older Pennsylvanians. The study measured the extent and nature of both general health care and prescription drug coverage for this particular population, and it explored differences within certain socio-economic and demographic groups related to coverage. The data yielded initial answers to questions about health care coverage, current levels of prescription coverage, and utilization of prescription drugs for residents age 65 and over.

May 8th Lecture at Penn State Downtown Center

Barbara Sims, PhD, an Assistant Professor at Penn State Harrisburg and Faculty Director of the Center for Survey Research, will be presenting a lecture on the findings of the PACE study on May 8, 2003, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm at the Penn State Harrisburg Downtown Center. The Penn State Harrisburg Downtown Center is located at 234 North Third Street, directly across from the Capitol Building in downtown Harrisburg. Reports from these findings are available on the Pennsylvania State Data Center's website at <http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu>. Click on Publications and then Reports.

This lecture will be free and open to the public. To ensure adequate seating, we ask that you please pre-register by phoning 717.948.6677 or email PaSDC-Reserve@psu.edu. The Center for Survey Research, like the Pennsylvania State Data Center, is part of the Institute of State and Regional Affairs at Penn State Harrisburg.

The PACE/PACENET Program

The Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly, known as the PACE/PACENET Program, provides limited prescription coverage for qualified older Pennsylvanians of low to moderate income. The study was conducted in order to better assess the prescription coverage of older Pennsylvanians, which is critical to administering the PACE/PACENET Program. The most recent data that had been collected prior to this study was from the 1990's.

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General Characteristics of the Survey

There were four main areas of data collected in the survey, including health insurance coverage, prescription drug coverage, utilization of prescription drugs and veterans' affairs. Data was collected from six different regions in Pennsylvania: Northwest, North Central, Northeast, Southwest, South Central, Southeast, Allegheny County and Philadelphia County. There were a total of 1,195 Pennsylvanians, age 65 and older, who responded to the telephone survey.

General Observations from the Survey Include:

- 62% of the respondents were female; 38% were male.
- 35% of the respondents were between the ages of 65-70, 28% were between the ages of 71-75 and 37% reported being 76 or older.
- 43% of the respondents said their health insurance coverage is employer sponsored.
- 64% of the respondents who were enrolled in Medicare reported having additional supplemental healthcare coverage.
- 12% of the respondents reported being covered for prescription drugs under the PACE/PACENET Program.
- 10% of the respondents reported enrollment in a non-insurance, discount drug program.
- 23% of the respondents reported out-of-pocket prescription drug costs of \$100 or more in the previous month.
- 39% of the respondents reported having no prescription drug coverage under their health insurance plans.
- 28% of the respondents reported being veterans, with 35% of these veterans indicating that they are registered to receive health care or health services through the VA.

For additional information, please contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

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