The Affordable Care Act and the Specialty Access for the Uninsured Program
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Introduction:
The Specialty Access for the Uninsured Program (SAUP):
• A progressive, county-wide collaborative between the healthcare leadership of Milwaukee County to provide low-income, uninsured individuals with coordinated, cost-effective access to specialty care.
• In 2013, local healthcare systems partnered with community health centers (CHCs) to provide specialty care for uninsured patients from their partner CHCs.
• SAUP patients accessing specialty care at an academic medical center during the first open enrollment period of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) from October 1, 2013-March 31, 2014 experienced high rates of enrollment in public insurance.

This project compared the rates of public insurance enrollment by:

SAUP patients at a single institution vs.
The uninsured populations of Milwaukee County and the state of Wisconsin as a whole to determine whether access to a system of highly coordinated care impacted the insurance gains of the SAUP patients.

Methods:
Determining Insurance Status for SAUP Patients:
• Chart review of 181 active SAUP patients as of March 31, 2014
• Insurance status was cross-referenced with the Medicaid Management Information System for the state of Wisconsin (ForwardHealth)

Table 1: Estimates of Public Insurance Enrollment Among the Uninsured Populations of Milwaukee County and Wisconsin:

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<th>Milwaukee County</th>
<th>Wisconsin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Uninsured, Non-institutionalized Adults Aged 18 Years and Older</td>
<td>108,388</td>
<td>456,508</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Change in BadgerCare Plus Enrollment Among Adults</td>
<td>+17,962</td>
<td>+31,346</td>
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Results:
Gains in Enrollment in Public Insurance by the Deadline of the First Enrollment Period of the ACA

Conclusions:
Access to highly coordinated care through the CHCs may have led to greater public insurance enrollment for the SAUP patients compared to the enrollment for the uninsured populations of:
• Milwaukee County
• The state of Wisconsin during the first open enrollment period of the ACA.

Discussion:
• Initiatives such as the SAUP program may be vital to improving access to care under the ACA.

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