PAYING ATTENTION TO ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS – COVERAGE ISSUES AND SPECIAL CONCERNS WHEN IMPLEMENTING THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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Special Thanks!

- M. Jane Park, MPH
  National Adolescent and Young Adult Health Information Center
  Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, University of California, San Francisco

- English A, Park MJ. The Supreme Court ACA Decision: What Happens Now for Adolescents and Young Adults? 2012.
  www.nahic.ucsf.edu
Overview: Adolescents & Young Adults

- Special concerns
- Health status
- Health care system issues
- Health care utilization
- Health insurance status
- Outreach
- Consent
- Confidentiality

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Special Concerns

- Adolescents vs. young adults
  - Age
  - Developmental status
  - Legal status
  - Health insurance status

- Social context
  - Familial support
  - Institutional relationships
  - Living situations
Health Status 1

- Major health problems largely preventable
- Behavioral links
- Critical period to prevent chronic conditions of adulthood
  - Diseases related to tobacco use
  - Obesity
  - Dental caries
  - Hearing loss
Health Status 2

- Motor vehicle crashes
  - Drinking & driving
- Violence
  - Homicide & fighting
- Reproductive and sexual health
  - STDs
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Pregnancy
Health Status 3

- Mental health concerns
  - Major depressive episodes
  - Suicide attempts & suicide
- Substance abuse
  - Binge drinking
  - Marijuana & other illegal drugs
  - Prescription medications
Health System Issues

- Acute care favored over prevention
- Financing/insurance difficult to navigate
- Shortage of providers trained/comfortable with caring for adolescents & young adults
- Age-linked legal requirements mismatched with developmental/social characteristics
  - Consent
  - Loss of eligibility/change in insurance
  - Change of primary care clinician

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Health Care Utilization

- **Adolescents**
  - 40% of adolescents had a past year well-visit
    - Among those very few received recommended preventive services (2001-2004)
  - 54% received care in a medical home (2007)
    - 46% for those with mental health condition
    - 35% for those with mental health AND physical health condition

- **Young adults**
  - Lowest rates of ambulatory care visits
  - Very high rates ER visits

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Adolescents & young adults insured at lower rates than younger children

2011 continuous health insurance coverage for at least a year
- 89.3% of adolescents (ages 10-17)
- 66.7% of young adults (ages 18-25)

2011 uninsured full-year or part-year
- 11.7% of adolescents (ages 10-17)
- 32.3% of young adults (ages 18-25)

Source: UCSF analysis of National Health Interview Survey

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Health Insurance Status 2

- **2011 full year coverage**
  - **Private coverage**
    - 56.7% of adolescents (ages 10-17)
    - 51.5% of young adults (ages 18-25)
  - **Public coverage**
    - 32.6% of adolescents (ages 10-17) [Medicaid & CHIP]
    - 15.2% of young adults (ages 18-25) [Medicaid]

Source: UCSF analysis of National Health Interview Survey

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The ACA contains a provision requiring states to engage in outreach to vulnerable populations:

“…conduct outreach to and enroll in Medicaid/CHIP vulnerable and underserved populations, including unaccompanied homeless youth, children with special health care needs, pregnant women, racial and ethnic minorities, rural populations and individuals with HIV/AIDS.” § 2201(b) (amending 42 U.S.C. § 1397aa).
Consent

- Parental or guardian consent usually required for minors < age 18
- Alternatives to parental consent
  - Court, foster parent, social worker, probation officer
  - Minor consent
    - Based on status (examples)
      - Living apart from parents
      - Emancipated
    - Based on services (examples)
      - Contraception, STD, mental health, substance abuse

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Confidentiality

- Research findings have documented privacy concerns of adolescents & young adults
- Consent requirements affect confidentiality
  - Minor consent based on status
  - Minor consent based on services sought
- Confidentiality protections affected by state & federal laws
  - HIPAA
  - Title X Family planning
  - State minor consent laws
- Confidentiality requirements ill-matched with insurance claims & billing procedures

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Conclusion

- Adolescents & young adults present special characteristics & concerns
  - Development
  - Legal status
  - Health status

- Characteristics & concerns influence
  - Health care utilization
  - Health insurance coverage

- Special attention is required to ensure needs met

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