

The Access Project
February 26th 1999
Training on: Getting and Using Data for Improving Health Care Access

Case Study: Desperately Seeking Data on Euphoria

You work for a community advocacy group in Euphoria, a county in the state of Perpetual Change (“PC”). One of the goals of your group is to help uninsured individuals find coverage or sources of free care. Recently, the largest HMO in PC, WeCare (not to be confused with its rival WeeCare) was bought by a large national managed care company and went through the process of converting to for-profit status. As a requirement of the conversion, a community foundation was established. The foundation has just issued an RFP for its first round of funding, targeted at innovative approaches to reducing the level of uninsured in communities that are part of WeCare’s former service area, which includes the states of PC, Texas, Louisiana and Alabama. The RFP gives a number of criteria that will be used by the foundation to select projects to be funded, including the number of people to be helped, innovativeness of the approach, replicability, and cost-effectiveness. But nearly half of the available points to be assigned when proposals are scored will be based on the demonstration of significant need in the community to be served by the project.

Your group intends to submit a proposal in response to the RFP, and has worked with selected physician groups and several local hospitals in Euphoria to develop an innovative means of extending coverage to low-income young adults without health insurance, including those who work for small employers. The biggest challenge in responding to the RFP will be demonstrating the level of need in Euphoria, since Perpetual Change is generally viewed as having a relatively low rate of uninsured compared to its neighboring states.

In preparation for writing your proposal, your group has collected a variety of information about Euphoria and the state of Perpetual Change. This information, which includes insurance coverage, demographics, employment, income, Medicaid coverage, education levels, welfare coverage, and the level of free care provided by local hospitals, is shown in the Attachment. Unfortunately, there are no data available on the actual number of uninsured people in Euphoria itself.

You have been assigned to the subgroup that is writing the section of the RFP response dealing with the level of need in Euphoria. As part of the application process, the foundation has asked for a short, oral presentation from each applicant organization. Since your group will be competing against applicants from organizations in other states, your subgroup has decided that it would be helpful to collect some data on the level of uninsured people in the other states in WeCare’s former service area.

Questions for Discussion:**To be prepared by each attendee before the conference:**

1. What is the level of uninsurance in Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama, and how has it changed over the past three years?
2. Is the level of uninsurance in these states higher or lower than in Perpetual Change?

To be discussed in small groups during the conference:

1. Prepare a 5-6 minute presentation for the foundation supporting the need for a program in Euphoria using the data in Attachment 1. Remember the foundation is interested in funding programs that are targeted at communities with a relatively high level of uninsured.
2. What do you think are the weakest parts of your analysis of need in Euphoria? What questions about the demonstration of need do you most fear the foundation will ask you?
3. Your subgroup has a maximum of \$2,000 to spend in the month before the proposal is due. How, if at all, would you use this money to improve the demonstration of need section of the proposal?

Table 1
Rate of Uninsurance in Perpetual Change

Year	Percent of Total population Uninsured
1995	14.6% (standard error = 0.9)
1996	14.8% (standard error = 0.8)
1997	15.2% (standard error = 0.8)

Source: US Census Bureau, Current Population Surveys, March 1996, 1997, 1998

Table 2:
Percent of Population in Perpetual Change Uninsured:
by Age Group for Nonelderly Population As of July 1998

Age group	Percent of Population Uninsured
0-5	12%
6-18	17%
19-39	25%
40-64	16%
Total: Nonelderly population	18%

Source: Special survey by Perpetual Change state Division of Health Care Finance and Policy

Table 3
Selected Demographic Data: State of Perpetual Change and Euphoria County

	Perpetual Change	Euphoria County
Population Size	4.1 million	220,000
Percent of population under 18 years old	26.6%	26.0%
Percent of population over 65 years old	12.8%	9.9%
Race		
• Black	27%	36%
• White	71%	60%
Education		
Persons 25 years and over		
• Percent high school graduates	67%	54%
• Percent college graduates	19%	10%

Table 4
Selected Health Status Measures
Perpetual Change and Euphoria County

Indicator	Perpetual Change	Euphoria County
Low birthweight babies Rate/100 births	9.2	8.7
Infant mortality Rate/1000 live births	8.0	10.2
Births to teenage mothers, rate/1000 teens	45	56
Doctors per 100,000 civilian population	236	174
Self-reported health status		
• Percent of population reporting health status as fair or poor	18.3%	Not available

Source: State of Perpetual Change, Department of Public Health; Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey

Table 5
Selected Employment Data

Indicator	Perpetual Change	Euphoria
Unemployment Rate	4%	6%
Percent of working age adults:		
• Not employed	15%	20%
• Working full-time, full year	46%	35%
• Working part-time, full year	8%	16%
• Working full time, part year	20%	25%
• Working part time, part year	11%	4%
Distribution of Employers by Size		
• Under 25 employees	13%	23%
• 25-99 employees	17%	23%
• 100-999 employees	20%	18%
• 1000+ employees	50%	36%

Source: "Census Bureau" and State of Perpetual Change Department of Economic Affairs

Table 6
Selected Income and Economic Measures

Measure	Perpetual Change	Euphoria County
Median household income	\$34,000	\$26,000
Public aid recipients, Percent of population	7.7%	8.2%
Percent of population below the poverty level	12.1%	17.8%
Percent of population on Medicaid		
1997	10%	20%
1998	13%	23%
Percent of population receiving food stamps	11%	18%
Percent of population on Supplemental Security Income	2%	6%
Percent of population receiving Social Security	14%	11%

Source: U.S. Census; State of Perpetual Change Department of Economic Affairs and Division of Medical Assistance; Health Care Financing Administration;

Table 7
Distribution of Employees by Industry:
Percent of Total Workforce 1996

Industry	Perpetual Change	Euphoria
Construction	9%	12%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing	4%	8%
Entertainment/recreation	4%	5%
Personal Services	6%	9%
Transportation/communication, public utilities	9%	7%
Manufacturing	13%	15%
Professional and related services	23%	17%
Finance, insurance, real estate	7%	7%
Public Administration	6%	2%
Retail	19%	16%

Source: State of Perpetual Change, Department of Economic Affairs

Table 8
Hospital Specific Charges and Charity Care
for Hospitals Serving Residents of Euphoria County: 1996 and 1997

Hospital	1997 Total Charges	1997 Charity Care	1996 Total Charges	1996 Charity Care
Delta	\$66 m	\$ 8.3 m	\$ 63 m	\$ 8.0 m
Euphoria General	\$136 m	\$30.5 m	\$130 m	\$ 24.4 m
Memorial	\$178 m	\$ 4.9 m	\$159 m	\$ 4.5 m
Mercy	\$37 m	\$ 4.5 m	\$ 34 m	\$ 4.1 m
Parkview	\$210 m	\$ 3.2 m	\$195 m	\$ 3.0 m
University	\$352 m	\$43.5 m	\$334 m	\$ 36.7m

Source: Hospital Association of Perpetual Change: *Guide to Financial and Utilization Data*