

**Featured CPRDC Researcher: Aparna Shivanand Ingleshwar**

Aparna Shivanand Ingleshwar is a graduate research assistant with the Health Policy Research Program at the University of Iowa Public Policy Center and a Ph.D. Oral Science candidate in the Preventive and Community Dentistry Department.

Ingleshwar received her B.D.S. from Rajiv Gandhi University, India in 2010; M.P.H. from the University of Texas in 2013; and completed a post-doctoral fellowship through the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2014 prior to joining the graduate program at the University of Iowa.

Ingleshwar works with Peter Damiano, Susan McKernan, and Betsy Momany, assisting in analyzing and reporting data for research projects evaluating the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan and the Dental Wellness Plan. Her dissertation will focus on evaluating specific components of the Dental Wellness Plan and its implication on dental care utilization and outcomes.



In this edition, we would like to highlight The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) data that was used by Ingleshwar in her research entitled “Medicaid Expansion and Dental Care.” An abstract is provided below and a copy of the working paper can be found on Ingleshwar’s [web page](#).

MEPS data set is available through The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). AHRQ offers practical, research-based tools and other resources to help a variety of health care organizations, providers and others make care safer in all health care settings.

**Abstract:** The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law on March 23, 2010. One of the provisions of the ACA expanded Medicaid eligibility for low-income adults who are U.S. citizens or legal residents with income up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Line beginning 2014. States were given the choice to opt into the Medicaid expansion program.

Few studies have examined the impact of the Medicaid expansion on access to dental care, but these studies used only a single measure of dental care access defined as whether an individual had visited the dentist in the past 12 months or not. This provides no indication of the type of visit, i.e., a dental visit for emergency care versus for or a check-up. Moreover, considering high levels of unmet dental care need within this population, it would be important to examine whether some of this unmet need due to cost was alleviated as a result of the Medicaid expansion.

The goal of the current study is to assess the differential impact of the Medicaid expansion on perceived and realized access to dental care, and individual dental care spending outcomes in a nationally representative sample of low-income adults.

[>>> MORE INFO](#)

**Featured Data Set: Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)**

The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, which began in 1996, is a set of large-scale surveys of families and individuals, their medical providers (doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, etc.), and employers across the United States.

MEPS is the most complete source of data on the cost and use of health care and health insurance coverage. MEPS collects data on the specific health services that Americans use, how frequently they use them, the cost of these services, and how they are paid for, as well as data on the cost, scope, and breadth of health insurance held by and available to U.S. workers.



MEPS data set is available through The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). AHRQ offers practical, research-based tools and other resources to help a variety of health care organizations; providers and others make care safer in all health care settings. More information about this survey and accessing the data can be found on the AHRQ web page.

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The Central Plains Research Data Center (CPRDC) is a special research facility at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln that is operated in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau to provide researchers with approved projects access to restricted-use federal data. Data are available from a number of federal agencies, including the Census Bureau, the National Center for Health Statistics, the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and other agencies. Restricted access data sets are typically more detailed and provide finer geographic coverage than public use data sets. A Census administrator is on site to assist researchers in the development of proposals, to facilitate security clearances, and to assist in implementation of approved research projects. The purpose of the CPRDC is to enhance academic research, research infrastructure, and the recruitment of research oriented faculty and graduate students. The CPRDC is supported by a consortium of university entities including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Iowa State University, the University of Iowa, and the University of South Dakota.

