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AHDC Email Network – Data, News, Articles and Policies Related to Health Disparities
January 12 – 18, 2012

- 1) Affordable Care Act: A Guide for Families
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1) Affordable Care Act: A Guide for Families

The Guide presents an objective, non-partisan collection of information regarding the implications of the health care law's provisions on families. Readers will find this guide a useful tool in identifying which provisions may have effects for their family, as well as become more informed regarding the provisions in general. The family policy doctoral students in the Department of Family Science at the University of Maryland School of Public Health compiled this family health impact analysis guide.

<http://www.sph.umd.edu/fmsc/fis/documents/2010AffordableCareAct-AGuideforFamiliesWEBPOST2010.pdf>

2) The Economic and Political Impact of Immigrants, Latinos and Asians State by State

The Immigration Policy Center just re-released 50 state fact sheets updated with the most current government and academic data available. In addition to the fact sheets, the center has added 50 state infographics which highlight the top data points of each state in a graphic format. The fact sheets and infographics are a synthesis of current government and academic data which highlight the growing economic and political power of immigrants, Latinos, and Asians in each of the 50 states.

<http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/economic-and-political-impact-immigrants-latinos-and-asians-state-state>

3) Study Looks at State-Level Income Inequality and Family Burden for Health Care and Related Expenditures

"This research presents the first evidence of an association between state income inequality and the extent of financial burden reported by vulnerable families raising these high needs children," write the authors of an article published in *Social Science and Medicine* online on December 7, 2011. Families raising children with special health care needs (CSHCN) often experience financial burden due to the medical expenditures associated with health care and other related services. The article examines the relationship between state income inequality and the financial and caregiving burdens families with low incomes incur as a result of their CSHCN's health care needs. The authors found that families of CSHCN with low incomes living in states with higher income inequality experience greater burden, net of individual, family, and state characteristics, which includes absolute family income, state median income, and per capita state Medicaid spending for CSHCN. Four of the six dependent variables were significantly and positively associated with state income inequality. "These results offer tentative, yet compelling evidence that policies that redistribute income more equitably may offer unexpected payoffs to low-income families raising [CSHCN]," conclude the authors.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953611006794>