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This Week in RAND Health

Children feel the burden of parental deployment — Feb. 1, 2010



School staff feel that multiple, extended deployments often negatively affect children's emotional well-being and academic performance.

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The likely effects of a refundable tax credit on health system performance

A microsimulation analysis conducted using RAND's COMPARE found that a refundable tax credit for individuals would produce a slight gain in health as measured by life expectancy; 2.3 to 10 million people would become newly insured; and a credit would have no discernable effect on total health care spending, overall consumer financial risk, reliability of care, or health system capacity.

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Effectiveness of anti-smoking public service announcements

This study found that messages in anti-smoking public service announcements that were delivered explicitly (directly with concrete statements) were more effective among teens than those delivered implicitly (indirectly via metaphor).

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A new tool to help school children cope with exposure to trauma

Based on the Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS), this new toolkit—Supporting Students Exposed to Trauma (SSET)—is intended to assist school-based mental health professionals, child welfare social workers, and school personnel who work with students affected by trauma.

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Likely effects of requiring employers to offer health insurance

A microsimulation analysis conducted using RAND's COMPARE found that an employer mandate would increase the number of people nationally with coverage by 1.8 to 3.4 million; the newly insured would have better health, as measured by life expectancy; and it would have no effect on spending, consumer financial risk, waste, the reliability of receiving recommended care, or system capacity.

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Biomedical research in Singapore: an overview

This report discusses the structure of the health research system in Singapore, the performance of the Singapore health research system, Singapore's science commercialization and technology transfer initiatives, and key topics related to the future of Singapore's health research system.

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Controlling risk factors for diabetes

A significant proportion of people with diabetes failed to achieve blood pressure and cholesterol targets, despite using high doses of multiple, conventional treatments.

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It might matter more what you *do* eat than what you don't

Increasing physical activity and vegetable consumption won't do much to limit obesity unless consumption of salty, high calorie snacks is cut.

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Providing incentives to reduce disparities in care

Hospital executives are hesitant about using pay-for-performance programs to reduce racial/ethnic disparities in care.

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Children feel the burden of parental deployment

School staff feel that multiple, extended deployments often negatively affect children's emotional

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Health Care Reform
Informing the Debate



RAND analysts have provided objective research on many of the topics now at the heart of the health reform debate. Read highlights of this work in key issue areas.

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Featured Research




Obesity in America
The RAND Corporation's obesity research considers both underlying environmental issues and also the economic consequences, including health care costs and health outcomes.

Principals: [Deborah Cohen](#) & [Roland Sturm](#)

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Featured Researcher



Roland Sturm, RAND Senior Economist, focuses on the economics of health living, obesity, diet, and physical activity. Recent projects include the effects of urban design, neighborhood, and food on lifestyles and health outcomes.

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What will the Affordable Health Care for America Act achieve?

COMPARE's microsimulation model projects that by 2019 the health reform bill passed by the House will reduce the number of uninsured by more than 55%.

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