

# INSUREBLOG

INSURANCE ISSUES, PRINCIPLES & SOLUTIONS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2011

## Along the Oregon Trail

As we noted Monday, *"you are more likely to die if you are on government insurance than if you have no insurance at all."* And, of course, Oregon's health care "system" is an exemplar of this result.

Well, Cato's Michael Cannon reports on a yearlong experiment on Beaver State citizens, and the results aren't pretty:

*"Oregon decided to enroll an additional 10,000 people in its Medicaid program via lottery ... Medicaid coverage led to higher medical consumption."*

No surprise there: make pretty much anything freely available at low (or no) cost, and odds are you're going to have a lot of customers.

But is "free" health care worth what you pay for it?

You be the judge:

*"Though the president has claimed [ObamaCrap] will "save lives," the [Oregon Health Insurance Experiment] detected no evidence that extending Medicaid to 10,000 adults did so in the first year."*

Granted, one year is hardly long-term, but shouldn't there have been some indication of improved morbidity (if not mortality) even in the short-run? Michael also points out - **and this is important** - that *"the OHIE extended coverage to the most vulnerable population of uninsured Americans, yet the improvements in health and financial security are so far apparently modest."*

Talk about damning with faint praise.

Barbara Wagner was unavailable for comment.

POSTED BY HENRY STERN, LUTCF, CBC AT 12:30 PM 

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**Repeal DOES NOT mean "Fix"**



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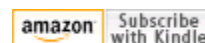
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