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[More Evidence Against Masscare](#)

Michael F. Cannon, of the Cato Institute, [reports](#) that the organization will soon publish a study on the Massachusetts health care system:

On Wednesday, the Cato Institute will release “The Massachusetts Health Plan: Much Pain, Little Gain,” authored by Cato adjunct scholar Aaron Yelowitz and yours truly. Our study evaluates Massachusetts’ 2006 health law, which bears a “remarkable resemblance” to the president’s plan. We use the same methodology as previous work by the Urban Institute, but ours is the first study to evaluate the effects of the Massachusetts law using Current Population Survey data for 2008 (i.e., from the 2009 March supplement). Since I’m sure that supporters of the Massachusetts law and the Obama plan will dismiss anything from Cato as ideologically motivated hackery: Yelowitz’s empirical work is frequently cited by the Congressional Budget Office, and includes one article co-authored with MIT health economist (and Obama administration consultant) Jonathan Gruber, under whom Yelowitz studied.

Among our findings:

- * Official estimates overstate the coverage gains under the Massachusetts law by roughly 50 percent.
- * The actual coverage gains may be lower still, because uninsured Massachusetts residents appear to be concealing their lack of insurance rather than admit to breaking the law.
- * Public programs crowded out private insurance among low-income children and adults.
- * Self-reported health improved for some, but fell for others.
- * Young adults appear to be avoiding Massachusetts as a result of the law.
- * Leading estimates understate the cost of the Massachusetts law by at least one third.

I’m sure this will generate plenty of comments from angry Romney supporters. I surely do not intend to lay all of the blame for Masscare at his feet (I understand the context of working with an overwhelmingly Democratic and liberal legislature and making the best of a rough situation); I simply mean to relay the findings of the study.

On a personal note, I have training in Massachusetts for my new job (not politics-related) for the next 11 days, so hopefully I’ll get somewhat of a closer read on the special election. While I had the TV in my hotel room on for about a half-hour, I saw a Brown ad. While I won’t have the ability to do anything like speak with voters and visit polling stations, I’ll pass along any information I might glean.

by Anthony Dalke @ 11:05 pm. Filed under [2010](#), [Issues](#), [Mitt Romney](#), [R4'12 Essential Reads](#)
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