

Center for Studying Health System Change:
<http://www.hschange.org/>

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This website offers a lot of information on the ever-changing state of health care delivery in the United States. I found informative articles on health care costs, access to care, provider satisfaction, incentives, marketing, and much more. The site offers free information as a public service – receiving it's funding exclusively from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Center for Studying Health System Change is affiliated with Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. has a website of interest as well).

From the site: “The mission of the Center for Studying Health System Change (HSC) is to inform health care decision makers about changes in the health care system at both the local and national levels and the effects of such changes on people. HSC seeks to provide objective, incisive analyses that lead to sound policy and management decisions, with the ultimate goal of improving the health of the American public.”

They get their information by conducting household, physician, and employer surveys, as well as interviewing healthcare leaders in 12 sites: Boston, Mass; Cleveland, Ohio; Greenville, S.C.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Lansing, Mich; Little Rock, Ark; Miami, Fla; Northern New Jersey; Orange County, Calif; Phoenix, Ariz; Seattle, Wash.; and Syracuse, N.Y.

The design and functionality of this web site are superb. The available data is kept up to date, in easy to access form, and it appears in reverse chronological order so you can ensure you are getting the latest news. The site offers an e-mail alert sign up, so that you can be notified of updates to the site.

One of the site's features is a portal into the CTSonline system – a web-based interactive system that allows you to obtain results for a variety of topics from the CTS Physician Survey. The CTS Physician Survey is a survey of physicians in the U.S. that has been conducted every two years since 1996-97. This site contains results from survey questions on quality of care, care management, charity care, income, and financial incentives. You can tailor your request to show results by year, type of physician (primary care physicians or specialists), and level of HMO penetration.