

Is this email not displaying correctly? [View this email in your browser](#)



December 2023

SHADAC Announcements

The Opioid Crisis in the Pandemic Era

SHADAC researchers recently put out a new brief examining recent trends in the U.S. opioid crisis during the pandemic. Looking at overdose death rates from 2019 to 2021, the first years of the COVID-19 pandemic, SHADAC examines trends across four categories of substances: fentanyl, methamphetamine, prescription opioids, and cocaine. Unfortunately, overdose death rates for each substance category increased significantly between 2019 and 2021 for nearly all demographic groups. Read the [full brief here](#).

Disparities in Minnesota's COVID-19 Vaccination Rates: Webinar

On Tuesday, November 14th, SHADAC hosted a webinar in collaboration with the Minnesota Electronic Health Record Consortium. SHADAC Researcher Colin Planalp and Dr. Tyler Winkelman of the Hennepin Healthcare Research Institute and Past-President of the MN EHR Consortium discussed COVID-19 vaccine disparities across various demographic groups, how decisions around priority populations for vaccination may have contributed to inequities, and ideas for future improvement. Watch the [full presentation here](#).

SHADAC Responds to Proposed American Community Survey (ACS) Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Test Questions

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released a request for comments regarding the proposed addition of test questions regarding sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) for the American Community Survey (ACS). SHADAC's response notes the limitations of the suggested two-step gender identity question format, inclusivity concerns for transgender and intersex individuals, and offers potential alternatives to the Bureau's current proposal. Learn more in [our full response](#).

Minnesota State House Committee Hears from Experts on Medicaid Managed Care

The Minnesota House of Representatives Health Finance and Policy Committee held a hearing on Friday, December 1st, to hear from a panel of experts, organized and headed by SHADAC Director Lynn Blewett, in order to gain a better understanding of Medicaid managed care and its costs. Presenters explained to the committee how Minnesota's system for delivering health services to the 1.4 million Minnesotans on Medicaid and the 100,000 MinnesotaCare enrollees functions. Learn about the speakers and see the [full hearing here](#).

State Data Resources

Minnesota: MN Department of Health ACEs Dashboard

The Minnesota Department of Health now offers interactive data modules summarizing some of the most thoroughly researched Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Data is categorized by school district and examines protective factors, risk factors, race and ethnicity data, and more. [Explore the dashboard here](#).

Maryland: The Hilltop Institute at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Released the Maryland Medicaid DataPort

This new interactive DataPort allows for the customization of data from Maryland's Medicaid program. Available data include Medicaid enrollment, LTSS enrollment and services, and more by year (fiscal or calendar), age, county, or region of residence. See the custom reports you can configure on the [DataPort site](#).

Special Announcement: Medicaid Equity Monitoring Tool Partner

SHADAC and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) are excited to announce a new partnership with **Health Leads** for the second phase of our [Medicaid Equity Monitoring Tool project](#). Health Leads brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in community engagement, and focuses on building partnerships with these same communities to discover and address causes of inequity that impact health and disease. For this project, Health Leads will convene Medicaid community members to better understand and uplift how they define and measure health, which will in turn inform the work of SHADAC around data collection and measure inclusion for a potential Medicaid Equity tool. Learn more about this [new partnership here](#).

California Health Care Foundation Highlights

California Achieves Lowest Uninsured Rate Ever in 2022

According to the most recent California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), the percentage of nonelderly Californians without health insurance dropped to 6.2% in 2022, reaching a historic low. [A new blog](#) authored by SHADAC researcher Lacey Hartman and supported by the California Health Care Foundation delves into this latest coverage data and examines disparities by race that, while narrow, still exist. [Read on here](#).

Key Takeaways from Medi-Cal Redetermination Data

After a three-year hiatus of California's Medicaid (Medi-Cal) re-enrollment during the pandemic, California now faces the daunting task of redetermining Medi-Cal eligibility for over 15 million people. The CHCF is monitoring monthly data provided by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) in order to understand rates of enrollments and disenrollments for various groups along with reasons behind those redeterminations. SHADAC researcher Lacey Hartman provided key analysis of this data – see [key takeaways and initial data analysis here](#).

Telehealth Use and Experiences Among California Adults (CHCF Brief)

Using data from the 2021 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), SHADAC and CHCF in [this brief](#) explore how adults from various demographic groups covered under varied insurance types (Medi-Cal, Private Insurance, Employer Sponsored [ESI], etc.) used and experienced telehealth services compared to in-person options. Key takeaways include that most Californians who use telehealth like it as much (or more than) in-person care and individuals on California's Medicaid (Medi-Cal) report using less telehealth compared to other coverage types. See more findings in the [full report here](#).

Recommendations for Our Readers

[How States Can Reduce Coverage Loss Among Children During the Medicaid Unwinding](#)

Eva Allan and Jennifer Haley; Health Affairs Forefront

[The Princeton Pulse Podcast with Heather Howard: Lessons from America's Former Top Doctor— from COVID to the Opioid Crisis](#)

Princeton University

[Medicaid Expansion Dashboard | NC Medicaid \(ncdhhs.gov\)](#)

North Carolina Medicaid Division of Health Benefits

Happy Holidays from SHADAC!



[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

Copyright © 2023 University of Minnesota
State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC)
2221 University Avenue SE, Suite 345, Minneapolis, MN 55414