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January 2024

## SHADAC Announcements

### Issue Brief: Public Health Implications of Cannabis Policy in Minnesota

SHADAC and the University of Minnesota's Cannabis Research Center (CRC) have released a brief using data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) to understand issues related to public health implications of Minnesota cannabis use prior to its 2023 legalization. Along with providing key background information and context on cannabis policy in the United States, this brief specifically examines three oft-cited concerns with cannabis legalization: the prevalence of cannabis use; cannabis abuse and dependence (i.e., addiction); and driving under the influence of cannabis. The data in this brief are intended to serve as starting points for discussions on the public health impacts of Minnesota cannabis policy. Read the brief in full [here](#).

### SHADAC Comments on Proposed Changes to the 2025 American Community Survey Health Insurance Coverage Question

The U.S. Census Bureau has proposed several changes to the 2025 American Community Survey (ACS), including changes to questions on health insurance coverage. While SHADAC is heartened by the U.S. Census Bureau's commitment to improving the quality of this measurement of coverage, after careful consideration, SHADAC researchers have recommended that implementation of these changes should be postponed. Changing the 2025 ACS could hinder the tracking of data during the ongoing, large-scale redetermination of Medicaid eligibility post-COVID (i.e. Medicaid unwinding). These question changes could further exacerbate the ongoing issue of the Medicaid undercount. See [SHADAC's full response here](#) to learn more.

### Household Pulse Survey (HPS) Insurance Coverage Trend Analysis: How Does It Compare?

The U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey (HPS) is an online survey that provides up-to-date monthly data on emergent issues and the social and economic wellbeing of U.S. adults. Using the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) for comparison, SHADAC researchers utilized health insurance data to analyze trends over time. We looked at rates of: Medicaid and CHIP coverage, private coverage, and uninsurance. The trends between the surveys track well, but the point estimates do differ. Learn more about key takeaways [in our blog](#).

### Medicaid Equity Monitoring Tool Project Resource: State Medicaid Member Experience Quantitative Data Scan

As part of the ongoing work in Phase 2 of the Medicaid Equity Monitoring Tool project, SHADAC researchers have been working to understand what available data measures currently exist that could be useful in populating a potential Medicaid Equity Monitoring Tool. To begin this process, SHADAC decided to initially concentrate on one potential category area – Medicaid Member Experience. After an extensive

data and measurement scan, SHADAC researchers have compiled their findings thus far into a new resource highlighting key data sources that hold the greatest potential for this measure. Find this new [resource on our website](#).

### SHADAC Research Assistant Awarded Prestigious American Journal of Public Health Fellowship



One of SHADAC's talented RAs, Mateo Frumholtz, has been selected for the prestigious and competitive American Journal of Public Health 2024 Student Think Tank Fellowship. As one of just six students chosen for this year-long fellowship, Mateo will work alongside AJPH staff to develop and manage a variety of different projects, which can range from calls for papers to publishing journal newsletters to managing podcast & social media channels, and more. Congrats, Mateo! [Learn more about the fellowship here](#).

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## State Data News & Resources

### Michigan: Michigan DHHS Office of Equity and Minority Health Held Public Forums for Community Conversation on Proposed Race and Ethnicity Data Collection Standards

To ensure a diverse range of community members could actively participate and share their insights and perspectives, MDHHS set up [multiple community conversations](#) as well as an [online public comment form](#) to get feedback on new race and ethnicity data collection standards.

Sessions were held for African American and Middle Eastern North African community members, Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islander community members, Hispanic or Latino community members, and members of the general public

### California: New Report on Transgender Immigrants in CA Using California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) Data

Key highlights include:

- Transgender immigrants comprise over one-quarter of California's adult transgender population
- Nearly three-quarters (72.2%) of transgender immigrants were people of color compared to just over half (52.0%) of U.S.-born transgender people
- Approximately one in four (26.5%) transgender immigrants were living in poverty

Read the [full report here](#).

## Household Pulse Survey Phase 4.0

Next new data will be released in **late February of 2024**.

Future data releases are scheduled for March 21, 2024 and April 18, 2024.

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View data on the U.S. Census Bureau's [interactive data tool](#) or access it via [Data Tables](#) and [Public Use Files](#).

## Recommendations for Our Readers

### [CMS Finalizes Rule to Expand Access to Health Information and Improve the Prior Authorization Process](#)

*Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, Press Release*

### [As She Drives Research on Structural Racism in Health Care, Rachel Hardeman Faces a Painful Reckoning](#)

*Usha Lee McFarling, STAT News*

### [Utah Survey Shows Why So Many People Were Dumped From Medicaid](#)

*Phil Galewitz, KFF Health News*



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