



News from May 2020

SHADAC Announcements

Results from SHADAC COVID-19 Survey Show Early Impacts of Coronavirus for U.S. Adults

The SHADAC COVID-19 Survey was part of the AmeriSpeaks panel, a representative sample of U.S. adults surveyed on April 24-26, 2020, by NORC at the University of Chicago. The survey focused on changes to health insurance coverage and care, as well as stress levels and coping responses, and knowledge and use of the safety net.



Blog Post May 14, 2020. [Coronavirus pandemic caused more than 10 million U.S. adults to lose health insurance](#), either by losing coverage through an employer or by canceling coverage to pay for other expenses. The survey also found that over 7 million adults reported delaying medical care for COVID-19 symptoms due to worries about affordability, and 51.1% percent of adults reported interruptions in access to health care due to COVID-19, either by canceling an appointment themselves or a provider canceling an appointment due to concerns around exposure to coronavirus.



Blog Post May 26, 2020. [90 percent of U.S. adults report increased stress due to pandemic](#). The most commonly reported coping responses were "talking more with friends and family" (40%) and "increased use of social media" (30%). Compared to those with excellent or good health status, adults with poor or fair health reported higher coping responses with negative health risks including increased smoking or vaping, eating more and eating more unhealthy foods, and less exercise. Additional information on coping strategies are presented by race/ethnicity, age, and gender.

Updated SHADAC Brief Explores State-level Public Health Funding Estimates

In light of the coronavirus pandemic, states' per-capita public health funding has garnered much recent attention. Estimates of state Public Health Spending range from a low of \$7 in Missouri to a high of \$363 per capita in the District of Columbia (D.C.). SHADAC recently updated our [Public Health Funding brief](#) using newly available 2019 estimates from our [State Health Compare](#) web tool, which have been drawn from the Trust for America's Health (TFAH) annual [Impact of Chronic Underfunding on America's Public Health System](#) report. The brief highlights state public health funding data from 2015-2019, and ranks [state public health funding levels](#) between individual states as well as displaying trends in state public health funding over time.



SHADAC in Journal of Aging & Social Policy: Emergency Flexibility for States to Increase and Maintain Medicaid Eligibility for LTSS under COVID-19



The *Journal of Aging & Social Policy* recently published an [article](#) from SHADAC Director Lynn Blewett and Research Fellow Robert Hest examining the new authority given to states during this public health emergency to streamline and increase the flexibility of Medicaid eligibility for long-term services and supports (LTSS) to low-income older adults & disabled individuals, who are disproportionately at risk and affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The article discusses how states can leverage existing and new Medicaid waiver mechanisms to expand eligibility, enrollment, and rosters of provided services to vulnerable populations and highlights a number of states that have already done so.

Data, Analysis, and Trends from the States

2019 Colorado Health Access Survey: Focus on Housing Stability

A [new issue brief](#) from the Colorado Health Institute (CHI) reports that 6.7% of the state's population worried that they would not have a stable place to live in the next two months, according to results from the Colorado Health Access Survey (CHAS). Among Coloradans who reported housing instability, 54.2% also reported problems paying for food, compared with 6.1% with stable housing. And of those with housing instability, 51.9% reported problems paying a medical bill, versus just 15.4% of those with stable housing.



Highlights from the 2019 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey

According to the recent [highlight report](#) from the 2019 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), there was a statistically significant increase in the percentage of adolescents who use e-cigarettes, with 26.1% reporting that they currently vape—up from 15.7% in 2017. Other areas of concern revealed by the survey were increasing rates of obesity, with a recorded rate of 14.8% in 2019 up from 10.9% in 2007, and an



increase in the rate of binge drinking among Alaska high school students in 2019 (12.4%).

Payment and Delivery System Advancement in the States

Value over Volume: Time to Modernize Payment to Health Centers in California

A new California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) [issue brief](#) examines how the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted issues of antiquated payment systems that favor volume over value for the state's health centers, which are the foundation of primary care for vulnerable populations through California's Medicaid program, Medi-Cal. The brief lays out guidelines for modernizing rules to follow a "patient-centered payment system," and lessons learned from other states that have already done so, including (but not limited to) fixed population-based payments, patient engagement accountability, and financial incentives around quality. The report is available to [download](#), along with an [infographic](#).



Impact of COVID-19 on Medicaid Managed Care Performance Incentives: Policy Options for States

Baillit Health and State Health & Value Strategies (SHVS) released a new [expert perspective](#) that identifies actions that state and federal policymakers have taken to address the impact of COVID-19 on managed care performance incentive programs. Such financially consequential modifications to arrangements with managed care organizations (MCOs) or accountable care organizations (ACOs) include changes to HEIS and CAHPS data collection and reporting requirements and deadlines, suspending quality withholdings, and adjustments to cost and utilization targets. SHVS also held a webinar on this topic in April 2020, which can be viewed [here](#).



Other Data News & SHADAC Resources

2019 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Early Release: First Estimates from Redesigned Survey

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has [released the first estimates](#) from the redesigned National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), which provide data from the first six months of 2019 (January-June). High-level findings from the [Early Release report](#) showed that the number of nonelderly adults (age 18-64) with no health insurance coverage increased to 27.2 million (13.7%), up from 24.8 million (12.5%) in the same period in 2018. The survey also showed increases in the uninsured rate for U.S. adults of all ages by income and race/ethnicity breakdowns.



SHADAC Updated Brief on Significance Testing Using State-level Data from State Health Compare

A [recently updated SHADAC technical brief](#) provides guidance on how State Health Compare users can run tests for statistically significant differences using estimates and their corresponding margins of error (MOE). State Health Compare provides state level estimates on over [50 measures across 10 domains](#). This brief first explains how to conduct a quick visual scan for approximating statistically significant differences by comparing MOE on states ranking charts, and then goes on to provide step-by-step instructions for using those data to conduct a more robust test of statistical significance through hypothesis testing.



Special Focus Resources: COVID-19

U.S. Census Bureau COVID-19 Household Pulse Survey Data

The United States Census Bureau recently published initial results from the first wave of their newly established [Household Pulse Survey](#), which aims to provide near real-time information on the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic among U.S. households. The [survey](#) contains three questions related to health insurance coverage and access to health care, two questions regarding changes in access to care due to the pandemic, one health status question, and four questions on mental health and well-being. Results from the first two weeks of the survey were released via [data tables](#) and an [interactive data tool](#); the former containing national estimates, and the latter containing a limited set of state-level estimates.



Policy Recommendations to Address Health Inequities in the Era of COVID-19

Recently, the Center on Health Equity Action for System Transformation released a [report](#) that examines the link between social and environmental inequities and COVID-19 outcomes for vulnerable populations, including an analysis of data at a local level. Based on this initial analysis, the report also includes priority guidelines for addressing such disparities, such as ensuring equitable access to affordable health insurance for all populations, expanding access to COVID-19 treatments for vulnerable populations, and reducing burden of chronic illness in vulnerable communities.



Altarum Healthcare Value Hub Webinar: Let's Prepare Now for Our Post COVID-19 World

On May 8, 2020, the Altarum Healthcare Value Hub held a [webinar](#) to discuss how policies enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have the possibility to shape the future of the public health as well as the health care system and health insurance coverage across the United States. Experts from the Healthcare Value Hub, Trust for America's Health, Health Equity Solutions, Georgetown University, and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities discussed issues around emergency preparedness, the disparate effects of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations, and the



need for insurance coverage and the role of cost-sharing. A [recording](#) of the webinar and [slides](#) from the webinar are also available.

Recommended Reading

[Hospitals Knew How to Make Money Then Coronavirus Happened.](#)

Sarah Kliff; The New York Times

[Report: Arizona Lagging Behind in Per Capita Health Spending](#)

Associated Press; U.S. News and World Report

[Responding to COVID-19: State-Based Marketplaces Take Action](#)

Julie Batalie, Alison Kruzel; GMMB and State Health & Value Strategies (SHVS)

[Early State Trends Signal Massive Surge in Medicaid Enrollment Related to COVID-19](#)

Joe Weissfeld, Lee Taylor-Penn, Eliot Fishman; Families USA

[Pandemic pushes more people into insurance market](#)

Martin Moylan; MPR News

[Caring for Mental Health in Communities of Color during COVID-19](#)

Dwayne Proctor; RWJF Culture of Health Blog

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