



June/July 2022

## SHADAC Announcements

### New Brief Examines Rates of Anxiety and Depression Symptoms in U.S. Adults throughout 2021



SHADAC Research Assistant Hannah Geressu and SHADAC Researcher Colin Planalp used data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey (HPS) to author a [new brief](#) that explores rates of anxiety and depression in the U.S. adult population throughout 2021. The brief shows that these symptoms disproportionately affect certain demographic groups, including young adults and individuals with lower levels of education and income. Public health officials and policymakers can use [this analysis](#) to determine targeted interventions for populations impacted by the mental health burdens of the pandemic.

### SHADAC Updates Minnesota's Community and Uninsured Profile Resource to Include Latest 5-Year Data File from the American Community Survey

Leveraging the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-year data file (2016-2020), SHADAC has updated the [Minnesota Community and Uninsured Profile](#) to incorporate 2020 data. This profile provides a detailed look at Minnesota communities, including characteristics such as health insurance coverage status, household income level, language spoken at home, and numerous other demographic details. Individuals involved in equity-focused work, advocacy, and health insurance coverage outreach can use [the profile](#) to support their efforts.

### Dr. Lynn Blewett Presents to National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Workshop



SHADAC Director Dr. Lynn Blewett [presented insights](#) on patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) at a public workshop hosted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. [Dr. Blewett's presentation](#) – titled "State-Level Data Collaborations" – focused on several topics related to PCOR, including the role of state and local data organizations when applying PCOR to improve health and health care.

## Data, Analysis, and Trends from the States

### Minnesota: MN Community Measurement Releases New Report on Health Care Disparities

Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM) published its latest [health equity report](#) this summer. The report details the pervasive disparities that continue to disrupt health care quality and outcomes in MN, examining impacts by race, ethnicity, language, and country of origin. Among the [key findings](#): MNCM found that Black and Indigenous Native patients fared worse than average on nearly all of the 18 measures included in the report. Additionally, Hispanic/Latinx patients fared worse than average on 12 of

the measures.

## Colorado: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Authorizes CO Public Option Plan with Section 1332 Waiver

Colorado [recently received approval](#) on a section 1332 waiver from the HHS allowing the state to offer public option-style plans. With this new law in place, CO insurance carriers are required to offer lower cost “Colorado Option” plans along with their other plan offerings. This is the first instance of the federal government approving state legislation that incorporates regulated plans into Affordable Care Act marketplaces to compete against traditional plans.

## State Health Equity Spotlight

### New MACPAC Brief Explores Access to Health Services for LGBT Individuals within Medicaid



MACPAC published [an issue brief](#) focused on the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) adults who receive health insurance coverage through Medicaid. Using data from several key federal surveys, [the brief](#) examines what it's like for lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations to access physical and behavioral health services within Medicaid in comparison to heterosexual adults. It also highlights the experiences of transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) populations within Medicaid in contrast to those covered by private insurance and those without insurance coverage. The brief also cites [past SHADAC research](#) centered on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data collection.

## Additional Data News and Resources

### Urban Institute Report Shows Decrease in Children's Uninsurance Rates and Explores Threats to Current Trend

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, continuous coverage provisions were enacted to help limit the effects of this tumultuous era on children's health insurance coverage rates. [A report from the Urban Institute](#) looks at the initial impacts of pandemic recovery legislation on children's coverage rates, as well as more recent rate changes tied to additional rounds of federal recovery efforts. [The report](#) details a shift to increased public coverage rates along with a decline in annual uninsurance rates for children, which dropped from 5.1% in 2019 to 4.1% in 2021, representing about 700,000 fewer uninsured children. However, with many continuous coverage requirements set to expire, this trend could be reversed, and children's uninsurance rates face the possibility of increasing in 2022 and beyond.

### State Health & Value Strategies (SHVS) Highlights Findings for Incorporating Social Care Across State Medicaid Agencies



In partnership with the Social Interventions Research and Evaluation Network (SIREN) at the University of California, San Francisco, SHVS [published study findings](#) that examine the role of state Medicaid agencies in providing and monitoring “social care” opportunities. With the knowledge that social programs can improve health, decrease care costs, and contribute to health equity, SIREN and SHVS looked at 13 states and what choices Medicaid leaders are making in those states to establish monitoring mechanisms. These monitoring tools ensure social care programs are thoughtfully implemented while remaining sustainable and scalable.

## Recommendations for our Readers

### [Better Tobacco Control Policy Starts Locally](#)

*Cynthia Hallett, Delmonte Jefferson; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Blog*

*Note: Uses data from SHADAC's [State Health Compare](#)*

### [Native Data Sovereignty Can Address Data Gaps and Improve Equity](#)

*Alex Tammaro; Urban Institute “Urban Wire” Blog*

**How the 'Father of the HMO' Helped Make Minnesota a Model for Health Care Reform**

*Christopher Snowbeck; Star Tribune*

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