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## SHADAC Announcements

### SHADAC Report on Prevalence and Disparities in Excessive Alcohol Use among U.S. Adults



Underpinning significant growth in alcohol-involved deaths in recent years, tens of millions of U.S. adults have reported engaging in heavy drinking and binge drinking. While early evidence indicates that the COVID-19 pandemic has only accelerated Americans' alcohol consumption and risky drinking behaviors, populations have not been affected evenly, with some states and some demographic subgroups experiencing much higher rates than others. A [new SHADAC brief](#) examines the prevalence of heavy drinking and binge drinking across different age, gender, income, and race and ethnicity categories.

### SHADAC Brief on New Study of the Relationship between Medicaid Expansion and Provider Participation

With the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) expansion of Medicaid, millions of Americans were able to gain health insurance coverage, including those who were previously uninsured. However, researchers have long been concerned that expansion in coverage would not correlate with growth in access to care, particularly regarding physician participation. A recent SHADAC [brief](#) summarizes key findings from a new study that is the first to provide direct answers about how clinicians responded to the Medicaid expansion. Using data from 2012-2017, University of Minnesota School of Public Health faculty member [Hannah Neprash](#) and colleagues show that Medicaid expansion led to an increase in primary care clinician participation in Medicaid including an increase in Medicaid appointments, the number of Medicaid patients seen, and an increase in the intensity of services provided.



### New SHADAC Expert Perspective for SHVS Offers Considerations for States as Public Health Emergency Unwinds



With the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) and Medicaid continuous coverage requirements, states will need to resume eligibility redeterminations for Medicaid and CHIP enrollees. A new State Health & Value Strategies (SHVS) [expert perspective](#) from SHADAC researchers summarizes the new reporting requirements that states will need to submit to CMS as part of post-PHE enrollment and renewal efforts and presents a

set of considerations for states as they begin implementing new unwinding policies, procedures, and reporting.

## Analysis of Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey Shows Plateau in COVID Vaccine Hesitancy

Building on previous analysis from the Household Pulse Survey (HPS), this [blog](#) from SHADAC researchers provides an updated look at vaccine hesitancy among U.S. adults (age 18 and older) using HPS data from January through October 2021. The analysis highlights not only the overall decline in hesitancy (21.1% in January to 14.6% in October), it also highlights the disparities in hesitancy levels between demographic and socioeconomic groups as well as tracks changing reasons for hesitancy.



## Data, Analysis, and Trends from the States

### Oregon: New Survey Data Shows Record-high Health Insurance Coverage in 2021



Results from the biennial Oregon Health Insurance Survey (OHIS) have [recently been released](#) by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). According to the survey, a record 95.4% of people in Oregon reported having health coverage in 2021, up from 94% in 2019. The release attributes the growth to the rise in Medicaid coverage, which increased to 29% in 2021 from 25% in 2019, as well as a marked decrease in Medicaid "churn" (i.e., the temporary loss of Medicaid coverage which causes participants to disenroll and re-enroll within short periods of time) due to continuous enrollment policies put in place in response to COVID.

### Vermont: 2021 Health Insurance Survey Updated to Reflect COVID-related Changes

The [Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey](#) (VHHIS) has been fielded periodically in the state since 2000, with the last in 2018. A [new report](#) highlighting results from the 2021 survey shows just 3% of Vermont residents were without insurance coverage for the year, the lowest figure reported since 2000. The survey also added several new questions to understand how COVID had impacted coverage and found that among residents who lost employment due to the pandemic, 84% were able to retain coverage, mostly through Medicaid (36%).



### Washington: Healthy Youth Survey 2021



Data from the [2021 Healthy Youth Survey](#), a voluntary survey administered to children in Washington in grades 6-12, show mixed results for the survey year, with high levels of mental health burdens (70% of students reported continual feelings of nervousness, anxiety, and worry), but also drops in reported substance use, particularly for alcohol consumption (8% in 2021, down from 19% in 2018) and e-cigarette use/vaping (8% in 2021, down from 21% in 2018).

## Payment and Delivery System Reform in the States

### How States Are Leveraging Payment to Improve the Delivery of SUD Services

In response to rising substance use overdose deaths, state policymakers are beginning to use payments to providers and managed care plans as levers to increase substance use disorder (SUD) treatment access and service quality in state Medicaid programs. A new [toolkit](#) from the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) draws on interviews with officials in four states—Arizona, New York, Oregon, and Pennsylvania—to provide guidance on how other states can include SUD providers and services in value-based payment (VBP) plans in order to improve performance on SUD quality metrics and lower costs.



## Additional Resources, Reports, and Guides

### ASPE Report on Marketplace Enrollment by Race and Ethnicity during the COVID-19 Special Enrollment Period



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) initiated a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) during the first half of 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A [new report](#) from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) uses imputation methods to better understand the sociodemographic composition of Marketplace enrollees during the SEP with the goal of improving targeted outreach and

enrollment assistance and reducing health coverage disparities by race, ethnicity, and other characteristics.

## Urban Institute Report Finds Recovery Legislation and Health Insurance Safety Net Prevented a Rise in Uninsurance

A new [issue brief](#) from Urban Institute researchers examines health insurance coverage data between 2019 and 2021 using estimates from the Current Population Survey (CPS), the Health Reform Monitoring Survey (HRMS), and the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), and finds that uninsured rates for nonelderly adults remained stable during this time—measuring at 12.5% and 12.6% respectively in the CPS, 11.1% and 11.2% in the HRMS, and 13.3% and 13.8% in the NHIS. While also looking at other changes in coverage types (e.g., Medicaid enrollment), the report points to the bolstering of the health insurance safety net and individual marketplace through federal legislation as key in preventing coverage losses.



## Other Data News & SHADAC Updates

### Six Measures on SHADAC's State Health Compare Now Updated to Include Pandemic-era Data for Health Behaviors and Outcomes



As part of SHADAC's commitment to releasing relevant and timely state-level data via our unique web tool, State Health Compare, estimates for six measures in categories of Health Behaviors and Health Outcomes—[Alcohol-related Deaths](#), [Opioid-related Drug Poisoning Deaths](#), [Suicide Deaths](#), [Premature Deaths](#), [Adverse Childhood Experiences](#), and [Unemployment Rates](#)—have [recently been updated](#) with data from the first years (2020 and 2021) of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### CDC Releases Results from Two Youth Surveys in 2021

2021 data from two youth surveys—the [National Youth Tobacco Survey \(NYTS\)](#), and the [Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences Survey \(ABES\)](#)—have just been published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The former is a long-running survey for which 2021 results showed 13.4% of high school students reported tobacco use and 11.3% reported using e-cigarettes. The second survey was created by the CDC specifically to assess the well-being of U.S. youth during the COVID-19 pandemic and fielded in January-June 2021, and results show 37% of high school students reported experiencing poor mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, and 44% reported feeling persistently sad or hopeless during the past year.



## Recommendations for our Readers

### [Supporting Health Equity and Affordable Health Coverage for Immigrant Populations](#)

*State Health & Value Strategies*

### [Improving Health Equity in Medicaid: Data Needs, Challenges, and Opportunities](#)

*Amy Raslevich, Youngmin Kwon; AcademyHealth*

### [California's Marketplace Tries New Tactics to Reduce the Number of Uninsured and Underinsured](#)

*Rachel Schwab, Justin Giovannelli, Kevin Lucia; Commonwealth Fund*

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