



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)
Office of Behavioral Health, Disability, and Aging Policy (BHDAP)

To our partners in research and policy analysis:

I am delighted to share with you BHDAP's end of year newsletter! As you will see below, in recent months our team has published reports spanning such topics as homelessness among older adults, emergency departments' innovative interventions for addressing opioid use disorder, and Medicaid home and community-based services policy flexibilities adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BHDAP research was also published in peer-reviewed journals and covered by the press, and BHDAP researchers and leaders served as planning committee members, contributors, moderators, and speakers on multiple workgroups and webinars, such as a [webinar](#) on using data and metrics to inform implementation of the 988fg suicide & crisis lifeline and a [panel](#) on the importance of connecting housing and health to prevent and end homelessness. Examples of this work are highlighted below.

We thank you for your partnership and interest in our work!

Dr. Tisamarie Sherry, Deputy Assistant Secretary

Please share with interested colleagues and/or subscribe below to receive these and other updates from BHDAP.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Addressing Homelessness Among Older Adults *(posted October 30, 2023)*

[Read Report](#)

The number of older adults at risk of and currently experiencing homelessness has increased rapidly in recent years, a trend that is projected to continue and further accelerate. Older adults at risk of or experiencing homelessness have unique needs compared to other populations experiencing homelessness. This report gives an overview of the population of older adults at risk of or experiencing homelessness and what services and supports are available to serve them.

Reimbursement Mechanisms in Team-Based Behavioral Health Care

[Landing Page](#)

Despite the demonstrated benefits of team-based care models, experts in the fields of behavioral health workforce and network adequacy have noted that existing reimbursement models do not adequately support team-based care. This series of reports examines the

development of several novel reimbursement strategies for team-based behavioral health care, common reimbursement challenges of team-based care models, and innovative approaches to sustainably bill for team-based care.

Reimbursement Mechanisms and Challenges in Team-Based Behavioral Health Care

[Read Brief](#)

Development of Innovative Reimbursement Mechanisms for Team-Based Behavioral Health Care: Results from Case Studies

[Read Brief](#)

Common Reimbursement Mechanisms in Team-Based Behavioral Health Care

[Read Report](#)

Identifying and Classifying Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Claims in the Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System, 2016-2020 *(posted October 11, 2023)*

[Read Brief](#)

Analyzing use of home and community-based services (HCBS) at the national level by type of service can be challenging due to variation in Medicaid coverage, codes used on claims, and terminology across states. To support analysis of Medicaid-funded HCBS use, this brief describes a methodology for identifying and classifying HCBS claims reported to the Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System by service category.

An Overview of Medicaid Section 1915(C) Home and Community-Based Services Policy Flexibilities States Adopted During the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency

(posted September 22, 2023)

[Read Brief](#)

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, states used Appendix K, a standalone appendix available during emergency situations, to modify their existing Medicaid HCBS 1915(c) waiver programs. Using Appendix K, states can make temporary changes to access and eligibility, payment, services, and other aspects of their waiver programs. This study reviewed and summarized modifications states made to their 1915(c) waiver programs between March 2020 and January 2022.

Interventions to Prevent Older Adult Suicide *(posted September 13, 2023)*

[Read Report](#)

Despite the increasing evidence of high suicide rates and associated risk factors for older adults in the United States, the number of programs addressing these risk factors remains limited. This study sought to identify existing and effective suicide prevention interventions, how these interventions can be expanded to the older adult population, and the barriers to tailoring existing programs to older adults.

Wages of Direct Care Workers Lower Than Other Entry-Level Jobs in Most States

(posted September 1, 2023)

[Read Brief](#)

Direct care workers (DCWs) play an essential role in the health and well-being of over 20 million Americans. Yet DCW wages are not enough to make jobs competitive with entry level positions in other industries with similar job requirements. To better understand the extent of the wage gap between DCWs and other workers, this brief presents results of a descriptive analysis comparing state-level median wages of DCWs with median wages of workers employed in other entry-level jobs.

Emergency Department Interventions for Opioid Use Disorder: Overview of the Landscape, Key Components, and Analysis of Five Case Studies *(posted August 31, 2023)*

[Read Report](#)

Emergency departments (EDs) are uniquely situated to interact with individuals who have experienced an opioid overdose or otherwise have limited interactions with the health care system, presenting an opportunity for EDs to serve as an entry point into treatment. ASPE conducted this study to identify innovative models and key characteristics of ED programs that initiate or facilitate engagement in opioid use disorder treatment, as well as barriers and facilitators to their implementation and sustainability.

Caregivers and Long-Term Services and Supports *(posted August 15, 2023)*

[Landing Page](#)

As the United States population ages, a larger proportion of individuals will likely need and use long-term services and supports (LTSS), much of which will be provided by informal (i.e., unpaid) caregivers. However, some require paid LTSS, often paying out-of-pocket until their personal resources are exhausted and they become eligible for Medicaid. There is a pressing need to understand the current cost of long-term care, national expenditures on LTSS, and future projections of the availability of informal caregivers. This project explores how key demographic changes will affect the supply of informal caregivers. It further provides current and improved estimates of national LTSS expenditures, as well as projections on older Americans' need for LTSS, the supply of future caregivers, and Medicaid spending.

Future Change in Caregiving Networks: How Family Caregivers and Direct Care Workers Support Older Adults with Needs for Long-Term Services and Supports at Present and in the Future

[Read Brief](#)

The Economic Value of Unpaid Care Provided to Older Adults Who Need Long-Term Services and Supports

[Read Brief](#)

Diversity in Caregiving Needs and Networks: Differences by Race-Ethnicity in the Care Older Adults Receive

[Read Brief](#)

Change in Caregiving Networks Over the Course of Disability

[Read Brief](#)

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Demonstration Program: Report to Congress, 2022 *(posted July 17, 2023)*

[CCBHC Landing Page](#) | [Read Report](#)

This report to Congress summarizes state demonstration oversight and expansion of the CCBHC model since the end of the second demonstration year as well as early implementation experiences of two new states, Kentucky and Michigan, that were added to the demonstration as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136). The report describes specific findings related to the topics of access to care and scope of services and describes how states and CCBHCs adapted during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Finally, the report provides information on demonstration payment rates and costs for the first four demonstration years for states with available data.

A Report on a Review of the Community Impacts of Use of Force and Certain Other Police Activities on Physical, Mental, and Public Health *(posted May 25, 2023)*

[Read Report](#)

In response to President Biden's [Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety](#), HHS conducted a review of the physical, mental, and public health impacts of law enforcement use of force and certain other police activities. This report describes the impact of police use of force and certain other police activities on individual and community physical, mental, and public health.

Variation Across States in Loss of Medicaid Coverage Among Pregnant Beneficiaries with Substance Use Disorders *(posted May 1, 2023)*

[Read Brief](#)

Using a national Medicaid claims database, this brief estimates the number of pregnant beneficiaries with substance use disorder who lost Medicaid coverage 60 days postpartum at the national and state-level.

Implementing and Sustaining Zero Suicide: Health Care System Efforts to Prevent Suicide

(posted February 9, 2023)

[Read Report](#)

Zero Suicide is a system-wide approach for health systems to improve the quality and safety of care for those at risk of suicide. Although Zero Suicide is effective in reducing suicide-related outcomes, little is known about how organizations fund and sustain the Zero Suicide initiative. This report provides insight into how organizations choose to implement and sustain a Zero Suicide initiative.

Health Care Transitions for Individuals Returning to the Community from a Public Institution: Promising Practices Identified by the Medicaid Reentry Stakeholder Group

(posted January 26, 2023)

[Read Report](#)

On August 20, 2021, ASPE convened a meeting of the Medicaid Reentry Stakeholder Group, a federal advisory committee established per the SUPPORT Act. The Group discussed innovative strategies and best practices to help individuals who are incarcerated and returning community members who are eligible for Medicaid, to promote continuity of coverage and seamless transitions back to the community. This report to Congress summarizes the practices identified by the stakeholder group and, per the legislation, will inform the design of a Medicaid 1115 demonstration opportunity to improve care transitions for this population.

BHDAP IN ACTION: Journal Publications

General Hospital Psychiatry

[Postpartum Medicaid Coverage and Behavioral Health Treatment Among Pregnant Women with Substance Use Disorder](#)

JAMA Pediatrics

[Medication for Opioid Use Disorder During the Prenatal Period and Infant Outcomes](#)

- In the news: [Moms With OUD: Improved Infant Care Seen With Use of Prenatal Addiction Meds](#)

[Psychotropic Medication and Psychotropic Polypharmacy among Children in the U.S. Child Welfare System](#)

- In the news: [One in Four Youth in US Child Welfare System Prescribed Psychiatric Drugs, Three Times Rate for Others, Government Says](#)

[Racial/Ethnic Differences in Encounters Related to Suicidal Behavior among Medicaid Covered Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

JAMA Health Forum

[Characteristics and Prescribing Patterns of Clinicians Waivered to Prescribe Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder Before and After Release of New Practice Guidelines](#)

- In the news: [Barriers to Opioid Treatment Persist, CDC Study Says](#)

[Trends in Buprenorphine Prescribing for Opioid Use Disorder by Psychiatrists in the United States, 2003-2021](#)

Maternal and Child Health Journal

[Prenatal Substance Exposure and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: State Estimates from the 2016-2020 Transformed Medical Statistical Information System](#)

Psychiatric Research

[National Trends in Psychotropic Medication Prescribing Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Psychiatric Services

[Impacts of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Demonstration on Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalizations](#)

[Health Service Use Among Children with Prenatal Substance Exposure and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome](#)

Review of Economics of the Household

[The Long-Term Effects of Marijuana Use on Mental Health Outcomes](#)

Cited in *Dying Broke: A KFF Health News & New York Times Project* -- [Facing Financial Ruin as Costs Soar for Elder Care](#)

[Extended LTSS Utilization Makes Older Adults More Reliant on Medicaid](#)

BHDAP IN ACTION: Webinar and Workgroup Contributions

Improving Data to Support the Home- and Community-Based Workforce

In response to President Biden's April 18, 2023, Executive Order on Increasing Access to High-Quality Care and Supporting Caregivers, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Secretary of Labor (DoL) jointly established a federal workgroup to improve data on the home and community-based services workforce. This workgroup, which is led by BHDAP, has made substantial progress to date as summarized in a [blog post](#) recently released by HHS and DoL. The agencies' work is helping identify opportunities to address gaps in information about this critical workforce and ultimately inform policy decisions at the federal, state, and local levels. The agencies are also seeking feedback from key stakeholders and anticipate releasing recommendations based on their findings by April 2024.

988: It Is NOT Just A Number

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's (NASEM) Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders hosted the series *988: It Is NOT Just A Number*. The [third webinar](#) in the series focused on collecting data and developing metrics to help inform 988 implementation and improvement efforts. BHDAP staff served on the planning committee for the webinar, which also highlighted BHDAP-funded research. Topics of discussion included: current strategies used to develop and validate metrics to measure the effectiveness of 988 and user satisfaction by demographic factors, including data quality and equity; state and local examples to provide an overview on available data and impact; the need for data transparency and data-sharing while maintaining user confidentiality; gaps and challenges related to data collection, data-sharing, and developing and using metrics for the utility of 988 to enhance the overall behavioral health care continuum; and current and future strategies to maintain the sustainability and funding for the lifeline.

Addressing the Rising Mental Health Needs of an Aging Population: A Workshop

NASEM organized and hosted a [public workshop](#) to explore the current state of mental health care for older adults in the United States and potential strategies to address the mental health needs and challenges of our aging population. Topics of discussion included: the incidence and prevalence of mental health and substance use conditions among older adults as well as the range and availability of services to address those needs; strategies to improve the quality, capacity, equity, and access of community-based and institutional mental health services for older adults; ways to build and sustain comprehensive programs to support the well-being of older adults with mental health conditions; current and new approaches to help older people with mental health disorders to live where they prefer in the community and to support their family caregivers; and knowledge gaps that impede progress in identifying and providing appropriate care for individuals with mental health and substance use conditions, which could be addressed through new research. BHDAP staff served on the planning committee for the workshop, and the [proceedings](#) have been released in a report.

Prioritizing Housing and Health to Prevent and Address Homelessness

The Bipartisan Policy Center hosted a series of [panel discussions](#) focusing on efforts to prevent and address homelessness. Top elected city officials and diverse business and community leaders showcased innovative approaches for preventing homelessness and supporting affordable housing and shared valuable insights on how to scale up promising interventions, emphasized the impacts on housing and health, and discussed how federal and local governments can invest in prevention and stabilization strategies. BHDAP and HUD leadership discussed how our departments are coordinating programs and resources to better serve individuals experiencing and at risk of homelessness.

The Economic Impact of the Opioid Epidemic: Labor Supply and the Workplace

The USC-Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy hosted a fireside chat on the opioid epidemic's impact on the labor force and how workplaces can become recovery-friendly. The fireside chat was followed by an [expert panel discussion](#) on policies, programs, and strategies that can support SUD recovery and foster continued participation in the labor force for individuals in recovery, featuring remarks from BHDAP leadership.

Past Newsletters are available at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/bhdap-newsletters>.

WHO WE ARE: ASPE is the principal advisor to the Secretary of HHS on policy development, including major activities in policy coordination, legislative development, policy research, program evaluation, and economic analysis. Within ASPE, BHDAP focuses on policies and programs that support the independence, productivity, health and well-being of people with disabilities, people with behavioral health conditions, and older adults, including those with long-term care needs.

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