

Whole Child Health Alliance

Quarterly Resource Scan: April 2023 – June 2023

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1. Timely Articles in Pediatrics

[Changes in Positive Childhood Experiences during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Authors: Elizabeth Crouch, Elizabeth Radcliff, Janice Probst
Publication: Academic Pediatrics
Publication Date: June 22, 2023
Publication Type: Research Article

Context

“The purpose of this study is to examine the prevalence of positive childhood experiences (PCEs) before and during the COVID-19 pandemic among school age children. This cross-sectional study used data from the 2018-2019 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH, n=42,464) and the 2020-2021 NSCH (n=54,256) to examine the pre-pandemic period (June 2018 to January 2020) and compared results to information obtained during the early pandemic period (June 2020 through January 2022), using bivariate analyses and Z-tests.”¹

Results

Study results demonstrate decreases in four PCEs and increases in three PCEs.

- PCEs that decreased:
 - After school activities decreased from 79.8% to 72.2%,
 - Community volunteering decreased from 43.9% to 35.1%,
 - Guiding mentor decreased from 88.8% to 86.3%, and
 - Resilient family decreased from 92.7% to 84.6%.
- PCEs that increased:
 - Safe neighborhoods increased from 64.7% to 67.2%),
 - Supportive neighborhood increased from 55.8% to 57.5%,
 - Connected caregiver increased from 65.3% to 94.7%

[Continuous Eligibility And Coverage Policies Expanded Children’s Medicaid Enrollment](#)

Authors: Aditi Vasani, Chén C. Kenyon, Alexander G. Fiks, and Atheendar S. Venkataramani
Publication: Health Affairs
Publication Date: June 2023
Publication Type: Journal Article

Summary:

¹ Throughout this document, text included in quotation marks has been directly pulled from the publication. Text that is not included in quotation marks has been summarized based on information and data included in the publication.

“[The authors] examined children’s Medicaid participation during 2019–21 and found that as of March 2021, states newly adopting continuous Medicaid coverage for children during the COVID-19 pandemic experienced a 4.62 percent relative increase in children’s Medicaid participation compared to states with previous continuous eligibility policies.”

Strategies for Providing Whole Child Care: A Blueprint for Meeting Children’s Social Needs

Authors: Jocelyn A. Guyer, Cindy Mann and Mandy Ferguson

Publication: Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

Publication Date: July 13, 2023

Publication Type: Blog Post

Summary

“Manatt facilitated a [virtual] panel discussion with state and national leaders who are pioneering new ways to address the health-related social needs (HRSNs) of children, which the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services defines as an individual’s unmet, adverse social conditions that contribute to poor health. HRSNs can include but are not limited to food insecurity, housing instability, social isolation and/or lack of reliable transportation. The [webinar] also reviewed emerging opportunities for financing children’s HRSN interventions, including 1115 waivers, “in lieu of services” (ILOS), and Children’s Health and Wellness Funds. To view the full webinar free on demand and download a free copy of the presentation, click [here](#).” This blog post responds to questions asked during the webinar.

Analysis of National Trends in Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Authors: Bradley Corallo, Sophia Moreno

Publication: Kaiser Family Foundation

Publication Date: April 4, 2023

Publication Type: Data Analysis

Context:

“This data note looks at national and state-by-state Medicaid and CHIP enrollment data through December 2022.”

Results:

“After declines in enrollment from 2017 through 2019, preliminary data for December 2022 show that total Medicaid/CHIP enrollment grew to 92.3 million, an increase of 21.2 million from enrollment in February 2020 (29.8%), right before the pandemic and when enrollment began to steadily increase. Increases in enrollment may reflect changes in the economy, changes in policy (like recent

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adoption of the Medicaid expansion in the Affordable Care Act), and the temporary continuous enrollment provision created by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). [...]” Note that enrollment in Medicaid outpaced CHIP enrollment during the pandemic, and overall, adult enrollment in Medicaid/CHIP outpaced child enrollment during the pandemic.

2. Health Equity Promotion

[Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Access and Racial Disparities in Food Insecurity](#)

Authors: Laura J. Samuel, Deidra C. Crews, Bonnielin K. Swenor, Jiafeng Zhu, Elizabeth A. Stuart, Sarah L. Szanton, Boeun Kim, Pallavi Dwivedi, Qiwei Li, Nicholas S. Reed, Roland J. Thorpe Jr

Publication: JAMA Network

Publication Date: June 26, 2023

Publication Type: Research Article

Context:

This study evaluates whether the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) addresses racial disparities in food insecurity, leveraging data from 26,215 families that were eligible and participated in the 2018 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).

Results:

The study demonstrated racial disparities in food insecurity among low-income households that do not participate in SNAP. The study did not find racial disparities among low-income families that do participate in SNAP.

- “Adjusting for household characteristics, households that were entirely Black or multiracial were more likely to be food insecure than entirely White households, but associations differed depending on SNAP participation;
- Among households that did not participate in SNAP, those that were entirely Black or multiracial were more likely to be food insecure than White households;
- However, among SNAP participants, Black households were less likely than White households to be food insecure.”²

[How Pediatric Care Providers Are Identifying and Addressing the Impacts of Racism on Children](#)

Authors: Martha Hostetter, Sarah Klein

Publication: The Commonwealth Fund

² Prevalence rates and confidence intervals were not included in this summary. Please see the article for statistical details.

Publication Date: May 9, 2023

Publication Type: Article

Summary:

“[This article considers] the roles of implicit bias and structural racism in creating and perpetuating racial health disparities in pediatric care. [The authors] focus on these factors more than on interpersonal racism, or negative feelings or prejudices that play out between individuals, because while the latter is important, the former are more likely to be undetected or unacknowledged. [The] goal is to shine a light on these problems and to point to concrete steps pediatric providers can take to address them. [...] [A practical example of a solution is] Children’s National Hospital in Washington, D.C., [which] created a training program that includes video scenarios of staff–staff and staff–parent interactions that involve microaggressions or other discriminatory behaviors. Thus far, 1,800 staff have participated in the training, with surveys showing that, after the training, participants were more likely to recognize problems and be able to have constructive conversations about how to address them.”

3. Cross-Sector Data Partnerships

[Data Coordination at SNAP and Medicaid Agencies: A National Landscape Analysis – Part 2](#)

Authors: Jillian Humphries

Publication: Benefits Data Trust/Center for Health Care Strategies

Publication Date: May 2023

Publication Type: Report/National Landscape Analysis

Context:

“In 2022, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) funded Benefits Data Trust (BDT), in collaboration with the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS), to conduct a nationwide analysis of how states coordinate across Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) [...] The first [report](#) on the survey results was published in January 2023, followed by [case studies](#) on innovative strategies used in three states. This[...] report provides recommendations for the federal government to better support states in data coordination efforts and outlines promising practices for states to maximize the impact of data coordination, all toward the goal of improving access to services for eligible people.”

Results:

“Based on findings from the survey and case studies, four areas were identified for continued improvements to Medicaid and SNAP data coordination:

- Provide clearer and aligned federal guidance;
- Build cross-agency alignment;

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- Utilize expedited enrollment options; and
- use data to work with third parties.”

New Research Links Medicaid and Census Bureau Data to Improve Study of Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities

Authors: Aubrey Limburg

Publication: Census.gov

Publication Date: April 18, 2023

Publication Type: Article

Summary:

“The lack of data on race and ethnicity in Medicaid enrollment records is an increasingly significant public and policy challenge that the U.S. Census Bureau is trying to address. New Census Bureau research found that linking Medicaid data with decennial census and American Community Survey (ACS) data could help identify gaps and evaluate the quality of race/ethnicity information in Medicaid records. This work further enhances the utility of Census Bureau survey data and creates new estimates related to racial and ethnic health disparities, social determinants of health, and population health. The data linkage strategy used in this research can improve the identification and mitigation of racial/ethnic disparities and reduce the rate of missing race/ethnicity information in Medicaid records by about 63%.”

4. Integrated Clinical & Social Delivery Models

Strengthening Early Childhood Health, Housing, Education, and Economic Well-Being Through Holistic Public Policy

Authors: Allie Schneider, Hailey Gibbs

Publication: Center for American Progress

Publication Date: June 29, 2023

Publication Type: Report

Summary:

“Inequities in socioeconomic and daily living conditions generate adverse outcomes that persist throughout the lifespan, but the birth-through-age-6 period can serve as a unique opportunity for intervention; in these years, children’s susceptibility to influential early experiences can be harnessed to support long-term well-being. This report takes a comprehensive view of health and well-being during the latter portion of this critical developmental window—early childhood—putting this developmental period into context beside the perinatal period and infancy and toddlerhood and establishing its importance for a strong family- and child-centered policy agenda.”

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This report discusses examples across the following five domains of social determinants of health and well-being:

- Health care;
- Neighborhood and physical environment;
- Education;
- Economic stability; and
- Social and community context.

Parent Preferences on Screening for Social Determinants of Health in Hospitalized Children

Authors: Tamara Gayle, Amy Law, Stacey Stokes, Alison Page, Wayne Neal, Priti Bhansali

Publication: Hospital Pediatrics

Publication Date: June 12, 2023

Publication Type: Research Article

Context:

“Although there has been much research on screening families for social determinants of health (SDOH) at pediatric outpatient visits, there is little data on family preferences about SDOH screening during hospitalization [...] [The researchers] surveyed a sample of caregivers of admitted patients at our freestanding tertiary-care children’s hospital between March 2021 and January 2022. Caregivers were surveyed with respect to the importance of screening, their comfort with screening, and which domains were felt to be acceptable for screening.”

Results:

“Many caregivers reported the acceptance of and comfort with social needs screening in the inpatient setting. [Specifically,]:

- More than 60% of caregivers were comfortable being screened for each of the social needs listed.
- Between 40% and 50% found screening acceptable, even if resources were unavailable [...]
- Electronic screening was the most preferred modality (44%), and if by a health care team member, social workers were preferred over others.”

Examining the Implementation of Health-Related Social Need (HRSN) Screenings at a Pediatric Community Health Center

Authors: Thomas W. Gray, Laura J. Podewils, Rasulo M. Rasulo, Randie P. Weiss, and Margaret M. Tomcho

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Publication: Journal Of Primary Care & Community Health

Publication Date: May 6, 2023

Publication Type: Journal Article

Context:

“In 2018, Denver Health and Hospitals (DH) implemented the Accountable Health Communities (AHC) model under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and began using the AHC health-related social needs (HRSN) screening tool during selected well child visits (WCVs) at a DH Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). [This paper examines] program implementation and [identifies] key lessons learned to inform the expansion of HRSN screening and referral to other populations and health systems.

Results:

“The screening tool was completed by 80% (n=11004) of caregivers bringing children to a WCV at the DH Westside Clinic, with over one-third reporting >1 social need. Food insecurity was the most common concern. Non-English, non-Spanish speakers were less likely to be screened and less likely to report a social need than speakers of English, after adjusting for age, race/ethnicity, and health insurance.”³

5. Centering Families

[Gains From Expanded Child Tax Credit Outweigh Overstated Employment Worries](#)

Authors: George Fenton

Publication: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Publication Date: June 14, 2023

Publication Type: Article

Summary:

“Temporary provisions that expanded the Child Tax Credit and made the full credit available to families with the lowest incomes helped drive child poverty to a record low in 2021, underscoring that the nation’s typically high child poverty rate is a policy choice [...] In addition to short-run relief from hardship, income support can bring long-run gains in children’s health, education and earning [...]”

[Caring for Each Other: What it Takes to Promote Mental Health and Well-Being](#)

Authors: Shadi Houshyar

Publication: Center for the Study of Social Policy

³ Note that exact percentages and sample sizes are excluded from this summary and not noted with ellipses. Please see article for these statistics.

Publication Date: May 2023

Publication Type: Report

Summary:

“Our public policies and systems do not provide all families with the services and supports they deserve and have historically either excluded Black families.”

The authors state the following eight principles should guide efforts to promote health and well-being inside and outside of the health care system:

- Every youth and family deserves to have access to mental health services, and supports and cost should never be a barrier to care[...];
- Every youth and family deserves to have their health and mental needs met holistically[...];
- Every youth and family deserves mental health services and supports that honor their experiences[...];
- Every youth and family deserves to be treated with dignity and not be pathologized or criminalized for their experiences[...];
- Every youth and family deserves to have care that is focused on supporting their mental health and well-being, rather than exclusively on addressing crises or treating diagnosable or acute conditions[...];
- Every youth and family deserves access to SOGIE-inclusive mental health services and supports that promote healthy identity development and meets the needs of LGBTQ+ persons[...];
- Every youth and family deserves to have providers that are prepared to support them[...]; and
- Every youth and family deserves health providers who can provide trauma-informed, racially and ethnically congruent, and culturally-responsive care.

6. Diverse, Multi-disciplinary Workforce

[Community Health Workers in Early Childhood Well-Child Care for Medicaid-Insured Children](#)

Authors: Tumaini R. Coker, Kendra Liljenquist, Sarah J. Lowry, Kevin Fiscella, Marcia R. Weaver, Janette Ortiz, Rachel LaFontaine, Javier Silva, Taylor Salaguinto, Gina Johnson, Lisa Friesema, Lorena Porras-Javier, Laura J. Sotelo Guerra, Peter G. Szilagyi

Publication: JAMA Network

Publication Date: April 30, 2023

Publication Type: Research Article

Context:

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This study evaluates the effectiveness of Parent-focused Redesign for Encounters, Newborns to Toddlers interventions, a model for well-child care that integrates a community health worker into preventive care services at well-child visits.

Results:

This study found that “integrating a community health worker into well-child care visits to provide early childhood preventive care services can improve the care that children receive.” Specifically, results of a randomized clinical trial showed that parents in the “intervention group had a higher score for parent-reported receipt of recommended anticipatory guidance during well-child visits vs the usual care group [...]; however, emergency department use was similar in the intervention and usual care groups.”

[Diversity in the Pediatric Research Workforce: A Scoping Review of the Literature](#)

Authors: James P. Guevara, Jaya Aysola, Roy Wade, Bianca Nfonoyim, Maylene Qiu, Michelle Reece & Kecia N. Carroll

Publication: Pediatric Research

Publication Date: April 25, 2023

Publication Type: Literature Review (i.e., scoping review)

Context:

“The purpose of this scoping review [based on articles from PubMed supplemented by the authors’ personal library of papers published between January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021] is to determine trends in racial and ethnic representation, identify barriers and facilitators to greater diversity, and assess strategies and interventions to advance diversity among those in the pediatric research workforce in the U.S.

Results:

[The scoping review found that] the diversity of faculty has modestly increased over the past decade but reflects a worsening representation compared to overall population trends. This slow increase reflects a loss of diverse faculty and has been referred to as a ‘leaky pipeline.’ Strategies to plug the ‘leaky pipeline’ include greater investments in pipeline programs, implementation of holistic review and implicit bias training, developing of mentoring and faculty programs targeted to diverse faculty and trainees, alleviation of burdensome administrative tasks, and creation of more inclusive institutional environments. Modest improvements in the racial and ethnic diversity of the pediatric research workforce were identified. However, this reflects worsening overall representation given changing U.S. population demographics.”

7. Financing Reforms that Incentivize Optimal Health

[Alternative Payment Models and Working with Payers—Key Considerations for Advancing Population Health Goals and Achieving Child Health Equity](#)

Authors: Rachel L.J. Thornton, Karen M. Wilding, Daniella Gratale, Kara O. Walker

Publication: Pediatric Clinics of North America

Publication Date: 2023

Publication Type: Research Article

Summary:

“The transition from fee-for-service models to value-based care in the US has been predominantly focused on adult populations, and there is a need for concentrated attention to develop and adopt value-based payment in pediatric populations. Support for value-based payment innovation requires flexibility and accountability for results to advance child health equity, but this depends on the payer and provider incentives, data availability, performance metrics, and overall adoption within the model. [The authors] recommend a whole child health model as the foundation for value-based payment innovation and accountability with child health equity as the ultimate accountability metric because it recognizes the interdependence of health care, social services, education, community, and family supports in achieving optimal child health and well-being.”

[Medicaid Policies to Help Young Children Access Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Services: Results from a 50-State Survey](#)

Authors: Sheila Smith, Maribel R. Granja, Elisabeth Wright Burak, Kay Johnson, and Daniel Ferguson

Publication: National Center for Children in Poverty

Publication Date: June 2023

Publication Type: Report

Context:

“This report presents results of a 50-state policy survey conducted by the National Center for Children in Poverty, Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy Center for Children and Families, and Johnson Policy Consulting. The survey asked state Medicaid agency leaders about Medicaid policies related to screenings and services designed to identify, prevent, and treat infant-early childhood mental health problems. The results and recommendations presented in this report can help mental health and early childhood leaders take stock of current Medicaid policies and their potential to support infant-early childhood mental health.”

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Examples of Key Results (not exhaustive):

- **Payment for Social Emotional (SE) Screening:** 17 states provide supplemental payment for SE screening; 29 states cover SE screening as part of well-child visit;
- **Payment for SDOH Screening:** 4 states provide supplemental payment, 21 states cover as part of well-child visit, 20 states do not reimburse for this service;
- **States cover dyadic treatment:** 38 states cover dyadic treatment; 8 states do not cover dyadic treatment;
- **States cover parenting groups:** 17 states cover parenting programs; 29 states do not cover parenting programs.

8. Other Relevant Publications

Positive Childhood Experiences and Adult Health Outcomes

Authors: Cher X. Huang, Neal Halfon, Narayan Sastry, Paul J. Chung, Adam Schickedanz

Publication: Pediatrics

Publication Date: June 20, 2023

Publication Type: Research Article

Context

“Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can drive poor adult mental and physical health, but the impact of early life protective factors should not be overlooked. Positive childhood experiences (PCEs) measures quantify protective factors, but evidence is lacking on their link to health conditions independent of ACEs in nationally representative studies. This study examines associations between composite PCE score and adult health, adjusting for ACEs.”

Results

“PCEs were independently associated with lower risks of fair or poor adult health, adult mental health problems, and developing any physical or mental health condition at any given age after adjusting for ACEs.”

The NDBN Diaper Check 2023: Diaper Insecurity among U.S. Children and Families

Publication: National Diaper Bank Network

Publication Date: June 15, 2023

Publication Type: Research Report

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Context:

“Families are considered to have diaper need when they cannot afford a supply of diapers adequate for changing at healthy intervals. Diaper need is a public health issue that threatens not only child health, but also maternal health and household income. [...] [This report provides results from] a nationally representative study commissioned by National Diaper Bank Network [...] on the status of diaper need in the U.S.”

Examples of Key Results (not exhaustive):

- Diaper need has increased sharply.
- Diaper need forces families to cut back on other essentials.
- Diaper need cuts across income levels.
- Diaper need intersects with food insecurity.
- Diaper need results in parents missing work and losing wages.

Assessing Health Care Access among Medicaid/CHIP-Enrolled Children

Authors: Jennifer M. Haley, Stacey McMorrow, Julia Long, Genevieve M. Kenney, Emily M. Johnston, Carla Willis, Kristen Brown

Publication: Urban Institute

Publication Date: April 6, 2023

Publication Type: Research Report/National Chartbook

Context:

“[This chartbook assesses] health care services receipt, unmet needs for care, and challenges families report with obtaining care for children covered by Medicaid/CHIP. [The chartbook presents] both national and regional patterns, [identifies] the subgroups of children who are at highest risk of not receiving needed care, and [explores] other material hardships and public benefits use, [leveraging] data from the 2016–19 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH) and 2016–18 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).”

Examples of Key Results (not exhaustive):

- Very few children covered by Medicaid/CHIP reported to have unmet needs for health services;
- About four in ten Medicaid/CHIP-enrolled children faced at least one barrier to accessing care;
- Some subgroups of Medicaid/CHIP-enrolled children, including Adolescents, children of color, children in fair or poor health, children who experienced a coverage gap in the past year, noncitizens, and children of non-English-speaking parents or foreign-born parents were at higher risk of experiencing access problems.

9. Quality Assessment and Improvement

Nemours did not identify any articles published in Q2 2023 relevant to this key element.

10. Community Engagement.

Nemours did not identify any articles published in Q2 2023 relevant to this key element.