

Whole Child Health Alliance

Quarterly Resource Scan: Quarter 4 (October 2023 – December 2023)

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Context

The [Whole Child Health Alliance](#) advances whole child health models that promote children's optimal health, development and well-being across the life course while improving health equity through delivery and payment reforms. This document highlights new literature published in the past quarter that supports the [key elements](#) of whole child health models. This resource scan includes a sampling of Q4 2023 publications from whole child health thought leaders; it is not comprehensive of all publications released in Q4 2023 that touch on whole child health.

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.

1. Timely Articles in Pediatrics

This section highlights articles relevant to current events in pediatric health that do not specifically pertain to one of the key elements of whole child health.

[Exploring the Effects of Medicaid During Childhood on the Economy and the Budget: Working Paper 2023¹](#)

Authors: Elizabeth Ash, William Carrington, Rebecca Heller and Grace Hwang

Publication: Congressional Budget Office

Publication Date: November 1, 2023

Publication Type: Working Paper ([Presentation Link](#))

Summary:

This analysis explores the financial impact of Medicaid spending on children, revealing that while short-term costs are incurred upfront, long-term benefits include increased earnings in adulthood. The Congressional Budget Office suggests that these enhanced earnings could offset a significant portion of the program's initial expenses over time, contingent on various factors such as discount rates and the influence of childhood Medicaid enrollment on adult earnings. The findings underscore the complex interplay between Medicaid investment, future government revenues and fiscal considerations.

[CMS Releases Guidance on 12-Month Continuous Eligibility for Children](#)

Authors: Tricia Brooks and Kelly Whitener

Publication: Georgetown University Center for Children and Families

Publication Date: October 3, 2023

¹ We highlighted this article due to its importance to whole child health.

Publication Type: Blog

Summary:

This blog post summarizes Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) [guidance](#) to states on the implementation of 12-month continuous eligibility (CE) for all children under 19 in Medicaid and CHIP, in accordance with the [Consolidated Appropriations Act](#). The blog post discusses why continuous coverage is important for children, exceptions to the 12-month CE rule, and how CE works at the state level.

Kids' Share 2023: Report on Federal Expenditures on Children through 2022 and Future Projections

Authors: Cary Lou, Heather Hahn, Elaine Maag, Hannah Daly, Michelle Casas, C. Eugene Steuerle

Publication: Urban Institute

Publication Date: November 9, 2023

Publication Type: Research Report

Summary:

This edition of the Kids' Share report sheds light on how public funds for children (birth through age 18) have evolved from 1960 to 2022, including responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Authors found federal expenditures per child were approximately \$9,910 in 2022, showing a decrease from the 2021 peak. Despite early predictions of cuts, state and local spending on children increased from \$11,250 per child in 2019 to \$11,410 per child in 2020 during the pandemic.

Social Media and Adolescent Health

Editors: Sandro Galea, Gillian J. Buckley, and Alexis Wojtowicz

Publication: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Publication Date: December 2023

Publication Type: Consensus Study Report

Summary:

This report describes the impact of social media on adolescent health and puts forth recommendations to mitigate the harms and maximize the benefits of social media for this population. The report discusses platform design, transparency and accountability, digital media literacy, and online harassment.

Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment: Child and Youth Data Snapshot

Publication: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Publication Date: December 18, 2023

Publication Type: Presentation Brief: Data Release

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Summary:

This presentation brief examines the outcomes for children and youth aged 19 to 23 enrolled in child-specific eligibility groups in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Following the end of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Medicaid continuous enrollment condition, there has been a national decrease of 2.2 million in child enrollment from March to September 2023, after a notable 32% increase between February 2020 and March 2023. The analysis delves into state-specific variations and provides strategies to mitigate invalid disenrollments while optimizing outreach to families.

2. Promoting Health Equity

This section highlights resources focused on promoting health equity.

Closing the Opportunity Gap for Young Children

Editors: LaRue Allen and Rebekah Hutton

Publication: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Publication Date: October 2023

Publication Type: Consensus Study Report

Summary:

This report examines the reasons for, costs and impacts of the opportunity gap in young children. This report defines the opportunity gap as “the unequal and inequitable distribution of resources and experiences on the basis of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, English proficiency, disability, immigration status, community wealth, familial situations, geography, or other factors that contribute to or perpetuate inequities in wellbeing across groups of young children in outcomes including health, social and emotional development, and education.” The report provides recommendations for policymakers, practitioners and organizations to address these gaps and ensure that all children in the United States have the chance to thrive in education, health and social-emotional development.

Adopting Anti-Racist Practices to Promote Health Equity in Pediatric Care

Publication: Center for Health Care Strategies

Publication Date: October 2023

Publication Type: Fact Sheet

Summary:

This implementation fact sheet offers strategies for pediatric practices to provide high-quality, inclusive, and equitable care, including:

- Promoting an environment of mutual trust and respect;

- Ensuring inclusive and supportive environments;
- Considering beliefs and cultural background in planning and delivery of care;
- Ensuring accessibility and inclusion while reducing barriers; and
- Using strength-based approaches.

This fact sheet also provides strategies for pediatric providers to assess and evolve organizational policies, provide staff training and supports, and engage their community.

Addressing Racism Across an Organization

Publication: childrenshospitals.org (Children’s Hospital Association website)

Publication Date: October 16, 2023

Publication Type: Article

Summary:

This article describes Seattle Children's Hospital's journey to become an anti-racist organization. Through a three-phase Health Equity and Anti-Racism Action Plan, the hospital increased employee diversity, decreased disparities across individuals affected by central line infections, and decreased no-show rates.

Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program: Optimization to Promote Equity in Child and Young Adult Health

Authors: Jennifer D. Kusma, Jean L. Raphael, James M. Perrin and Mark L. Hudak

Publication: American Academy Of Pediatrics

Publication Date: October 20, 2023

Publication Type: Policy Statement

Summary:

This statement puts forth recommendations to Medicaid and CHIP programs to “support a higher-quality, family-oriented and equitable system of care that increases access to services reduces disparities, and improves health outcomes into adulthood.” The policy statement recommends foundational changes the Medicaid and CHIP programs that focus on eligibility and duration of coverage, standardization of covered services, quality of care, and program financing/payment.

[Research Priorities for Pediatric Emergency Care to Address Disparities by Race, Ethnicity, and Language](#)

Authors: Elyse N. Portillo, Chris A. Rees, Emily A. Hartford, Zachary C. Foughty, Michelle L. Pickett, Colleen K. Gutman, Bashar S. Shihabuddin, Eric W. Fleegler, Corrie E. Chumpitazi, Tiffani J. Johnson, David Schnadower and Kathy N. Shaw

Publication: JAMA Network Open

Publication Date: November 13, 2023

Publication Type: Research Article

Summary:

This study identifies key research priorities for addressing disparities in pediatric emergency care, based on a survey of families, community partners, medical professionals, researchers, and health care-affiliated organizations. The top 12 priorities include systematic efforts to reduce disparities, collecting and reporting race, ethnicity, and language data, addressing clinician implicit bias, mental health disparities, social determinants of health, language and literacy, acute pain management disparities, equity metrics for quality of care, shared decision-making, patient experience, triage and acuity score assignment, and inclusive research participation.

[Unveiling Early Childhood Health Inequities By Age Five Through The National Neighborhood Equity Index And The Early Development Instrument](#)

Authors: Efren Aguilar, Judith L. Perrigo, Nicole Pereira, Shirley A. Russ, Joshua L. Bader and Neal Halfon

Publication: SSM – Population Health

Publication Date: November 14, 2023

Publication Type: Journal Article

Summary:

This study explores the connection between neighborhood socio-economic conditions and early child development in the United States. Findings reveal that children in neighborhoods with more equity barriers are more likely to face developmental challenges compared to those in neighborhoods with less equity barriers.²

² This study leverages the national neighborhood equity index (NNEI), which is comprised of 11 variables across the dimensions of education, economic indicators, social indicators, and wealth indicators. To conduct the analysis, the analysts established an equity barrier cutoff, and the equity barriers across each census tract were summed to develop an inequity measure,

3. Integrating Care Delivery and Social Supports

This section highlights articles focusing on integrated delivery models that address social drivers of health, developmental needs and caregiver relationships.

[Integration of Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants, and Children \(WIC\) in Primary Care Settings](#)

Authors: Brittany Goldstein, Abigail Steiner, Lynn Vander Wielen, Kate Bennett and Margaret Tomcho

Publication: Journal of Community Health

Publication Date: November 9, 2023

Publication Type: Journal Article

Summary:

The article discusses participants' experience in the Specialized WIC Co-Enrollment program in Denver County, which integrates the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) services into pediatric well-child and obstetric visits at Denver Health's Federally Qualified Health Centers. Between March 2021 and December 2022 1,870 families (3,347 individuals) received Specialized WIC Co-Enrollment appointments. Participants reported positive experiences, highlighting that they saved time, money, childcare, and transportation. Staff and providers emphasized the program's convenience and system-level benefits, including improved collaboration and clinic efficiency.

[Coverage of Services and Supports to Address Health-Related Social Needs in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program \(CMCS Informational Bulletin\) and Coverage of Health-Related Social Needs \(HRSN\) Services in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) November 2023](#) (Framework)

Authors: Daniel Tsai

Publication: Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

Publication Date: November 16, 2023

Publication Type: CMCS Informational Bulletin and Framework

Summary:

CMS released an informational bulletin and framework providing guidance on opportunities to cover services and supports that address health-related social needs (HRSNs) (e.g., housing, nutrition services) under Medicaid and CHIP. The documents describe Medicaid authorities to cover HRSN services, guardrails on

eligible populations and duration limits, and “allowable” HRSN services, including outlining 15 approvable HRSN services. Additionally, Manatt presents a more detailed summary [here](#).

4. Aligning Care for Families

This section highlights resources that focus on aligning care for families to improve the health and well-being of parents and other caregivers in tandem with the child.

[Developing and Scaling a Social Needs Screening and Referral Process for Pediatric Patient Families](#)

Authors: Nemours Children’s Health
Publication: Moving Health Care Upstream
Publication Date: September 2023
Publication Type: Report

Summary:

Nemours created a guidance to help other health systems identify and address the unique health-related social needs of pediatric patients and their families. In this guide, Nemours Children’s Health shares insights from their experience creating a social needs screening process. They highlighting the "Plan, Do, Study, Act" approach for developing their strategy to meet the health related social needs of children and families.

[Co-Creating Equitable Partnerships Between Families and Child Health Care Providers](#)

Publication: Center for Health Care Strategies
Publication Date: October 2023
Publication Type: Fact Sheet

Summary:

“This implementation fact sheet offers strategies that pediatric practices can use in meaningfully engaging patients and families to inform both care delivery as well as broader health care system improvements.” It includes opportunities to co-create equitable partnerships in pediatric care; strengthen and assess policies and programs; create new ways to engage family members; and support families in providing feedback.

[Identifying Family Strengths and Addressing Health-Related Social Needs](#)

Publication: Center for Health Care Strategies

Publication Date: October 2023

Publication Type: Fact Sheet

Summary:

“This fact sheet offers strategies that pediatric practices can use to support their journey toward providing care that is high-quality, inclusive, equitable, and delivered with dignity.” It focuses on opportunities to identify family strengths and better support health-related social needs, including strategies to holistically supporting families during health care provider visits, tips for implementing social needs screenings, and recommendations for supporting staff and engaging community partners.

[Engaging Families and Providers When Aligning Early Childhood and Medicaid Systems: State Lessons](#)

Authors: Lauren Scannelli Jacobs and Armelle Casau

Publication: Center for Health Care Strategies

Publication Date: December 2023

Publication Type: Issue Brief

Summary:

“This brief describes key strategies to engage families and providers when aligning Medicaid and early childhood systems, drawing on lessons from cross-agency teams in five states — Alaska, Illinois, Nevada, North Dakota, and Oklahoma. ... Aligning programs and services offered by Medicaid and early childhood agencies can create systems that are easier to navigate and address unmet needs of families with young children. Co-creating solutions with families with young children prioritizes the needs of families and elevates community-driven strategies that can lead to more tailored services that promote healthier children, families, and communities.”

5. Supporting a Diverse, Multidisciplinary Workforce

This section highlights articles that focus on supporting a diverse, multidisciplinary workforce that helps to foster trusting relationships with those served. ***Nemours did not identify any articles published in Q4 2023 relevant to this key element.***

6. Advancing Financing Reforms That Incentivize Optimal Health

This section highlights resources that focus on value-based payment models that aim to advance long-term quality to support optimal health.

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Investing in Child Health Through Alternative Payment Models: Lessons From North Carolina Integrated Care for Kids

Authors: Greeshma James, Elizabeth Kasper, Charlene A. Wong
David M. Anderson, Sarah Allin, Michael J. Steiner
Kori B. Flower, Daniel Kimberg and Rushina Cholera

Publication: Medical Care Research and Review

Publication Date: December 29, 2023

Publication Type: Research Article

Abstract:

This paper draws on interviews from North Carolina Medicaid managed care organizations, North Carolina Medicaid, and actuaries with experience in value-based payment across the pediatric population to assess North Carolina's process for developing its NC Integrated Care for Kids (InCK) value-based payment model and propose strategies to support future pediatric value-based payment models. The paper highlights the need to account for payer priorities and readiness, the impact of data uncertainty on building new measures, misalignment of the short-term return-on-investment framework with whole child health measures, and state levers (e.g., mandates and incentives) to promote value-based payment.

10. Incentivizing Cross-Sector Data Partnerships

This section highlights resources that focus on facilitating the exchange and integration of data across sectors to promote connections to resources in the community. ***Nemours did not identify any articles published in Q4 2023 relevant to this key element.***

11. Fostering Healthy Communities

This section highlights resources that focus on engaging community members and other stakeholders to ensure approaches meet local needs.

Engaging Community Members: A Guide to Equitable Compensation

Authors: Anna Spencer and Lauren Scannelli Jacobs

Publication: Center for Health Care Strategies

Publication Date: October 2023

Publication Type: Issue Brief

Summary:

“Community members, including youth and families, can offer health care organizations unique insight to inform policy and program design by sharing their lived experience. Organizations should compensate community members for their time and knowledge just as they would other professionals involved in informing program and policy design decisions. This brief provides tips to help organizations

create clear guidelines and processes for equitable compensation, while maintaining flexibility in their approach.”

12. Assessing Quality Improvement and Performance

This section highlights resources that focus on measuring the impact of integrated delivery models on key patient outcomes, including measures that go beyond medical care. ***Nemours did not identify any articles published in Q4 2023 relevant to this key element.***