

eHealth Commission December 2023 News Highlights

Health IT/Broadband-

- **(Research Article) JAMA Health Forum, Progress and Persistent Disparities in Patient Access to Electronic Health Information (11/10/23)**- *This research article investigates changes to patient access of electronic health information during the COVID-19 pandemic.* [Retrieved^{1*} from: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama-health-forum/fullarticle/2811770>]
- **(Research Article) JAMA Network, Patient Usage of Apps to Access Online Medical Records (11/14/23)**- *This article describes a study of patients' use of apps to access health information.* [Retrieved from: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2811823>]
- **(Federal Agency Blog) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)-Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), Coming in Hot! TEFCA Will Soon Be Live and Add Support for FHIR-Based Exchange (11/3/23)**- *This blog provides an overview of the past year's progress in actualizing the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA). The blog includes links to relevant resources, such as recently proposed federal rules and the Common Agreement.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.healthit.gov/buzz-blog/tefca/coming-in-hot-tefca-will-soon-be-live-and-add-support-for-fhir-based-exchange>]
 - **(National Association Blog) Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), TEFCA: A Better User Experience for Exchanging Public Health Data (11/13/23)**- *In a related blog, ASTHO provides an overview of TEFCA and its implications for public health.* [Retrieved from: https://www.astho.org/communications/blog/tefca-a-better-user-experience-for-exchanging-public-health-data?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=asthophw&utm_content=HPU&utm_term=TEFCAData]
- **(State Spotlight/Innovation) TechTarget-EHE Intelligence, EHR Data Sharing Shows Promise for Public Health Monitoring of Drug Use (11/7/23)**- *This article showcases a Minnesota-based study in which electronic health records were used to inform public health priorities to prevent drug-related mortality.* [Retrieved from: https://ehrintelligence.com/news/ehr-data-sharing-shows-promise-for-public-health-monitoring-of-drug-use?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter]
- **(Federal Agency Blog) ONC, The Digital Health Divide for Populations that have been Marginalized (11/13/23)**- *The blog discusses the flow of health information and recognizes disparities among hospitals that serve more marginalized populations.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.healthit.gov/buzz-blog/health-information-exchange-2/the-digital-health-divide-for-populations-that-have-been-marginalized>]
- **(State Spotlight/Innovation) Route Fifty, New technology helps state officers, clinicians provide mental health care (11/13/23)**- *The article spotlights the use of technology and telehealth by Oklahoma law enforcement to connect distressed individuals with mental health services.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.route-fifty.com/management/2023/11/new-technology-helps-state-officers-clinicians-provide-mental-health-care/391976/>]
- **(Colorado-Mentioned Rural Telehealth Article) Roll Call, COVID aid fuels telehealth expansion in rural America (11/16/23)**- *The article features the care of rural-based patients across multiple states, exemplifying the benefits and pitfalls of rural telehealth.* [Retrieved from: https://rollcall.com/2023/11/16/covid-aid-fuels-telehealth-expansion-in-rural-america/?utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletters&utm_content=11/18/2023]
- **(Digital Inclusion Toolkit) NCTA-The Rural Broadband Association, SMART Tools for Digital Inclusion (2023)**- *This toolkit coincides with the states' five-year planning processes for the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program. It suggests three broad stages of community planning to best understand the status of connectivity and inform planning efforts.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.ntca.org/sites/default/files/documents/SMARTDigitalInclusionToolkit.pdf>]

Medicaid/Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)-

- **(Colorado-Included State Tracker) National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), Medicaid Managed Care for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs: 50-State Scan (10/25/23)**- *NASHP engaged in a scan of states' Medicaid waivers, state plan amendments, and managed care contracts identifying key provisions for children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and developed two maps and a chart that summarize findings.* [Retrieved from:

^{1*} All sites reviewed 12/7/23.

https://nashp.org/medicaid-managed-care-for-children-and-youth-with-special-health-care-needs-50-state-scan/?utm_source=Nashp+Enews&utm_campaign=84c5949bfd-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_OCT_31_2023&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_afe3b8a6e2-84c5949bfd-211040598

- **(Colorado-Mentioned National Survey Report) Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), Amid Unwinding of Pandemic-Era Policies, Medicaid Programs Continue to Focus on Delivery Systems, Benefits, and Reimbursement Rates: Results from an Annual Medicaid Budget Survey for State Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 (11/14/23)-** *Annually, KFF with Health Management Associates surveys state Medicaid programs in study of policies in place and changes anticipated in the coming year. Links to a separate issue brief and a related web briefing recording can be located within the webpage as well.* [Retrieved from: https://www.kff.org/medicaid/report/50-state-medicicaid-budget-survey-fy-2023-2024/?utm_campaign=KFF-2023-Medicaid&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_282387442&hsenc=p2ANqtz-rpJauCkZ-y_j9FOdyOplfcFwlfvNkSo_HbEHrhRBLD3pfl-4wCjV2Gnhn1OS7OFrssaNeBslbVvriQ5AsmKJmlevCLKl6tbkgHnX4_d3zBW_Tyw&utm_content=282387442&utm_source=hs_email]
- **(Colorado-Mentioned National Report) Health Management Associates (HMA), Unwinding Medicaid Data: A Real-Time 50-State Assessment as Redeterminations Approach the Midpoint (11/13/23)-** *In this report, HMA examines the Medicaid unwinding event near its mid-point.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.healthmanagement.com/wp-content/uploads/Unwinding-Medicaid-Data-11-13-23-1.pdf>]
- **(National Survey Brief) KFF, A Look at Navigating the Health Care System: Medicaid Consumer Perspectives (11/27/23)-** *This KFF brief examines Medicaid enrollees' perspectives from a survey fielded in early 2023.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/a-look-at-navigating-the-health-care-system-medicicaid-consumer-perspectives/>]
- **(Funding Opportunity) HHS-CMS, States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model (11/16/23)-** *In mid-November, CMS released the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for states interested in participating within this model. Applications are due in March for Cohorts 1 and 2 and August for Cohort 3. The following website includes links to the NOFO, listserv registration, resource materials, and event information.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/ahead>; grants.gov posting: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/349644>]
- **(Federal Announcement) HHS, Secretary Becerra Named Chair of U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness; Announces \$6.1 Million in New Measures on Affordable Housing and Support for Runaway Youth; Launches Housing and Services Partnership Accelerator (11/1/23)-** *This press release outlines multiple initiatives across HHS to prevent and intervene in homelessness, namely the expansion of housing-related supports and services through section 1115 Medicaid demonstrations.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/11/01/affordable-housing-support-for-runaway-youth.html>]

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)/Health Equity-

- **(Federal Administration Action) HHS, The Biden-Harris Administration Takes Action to Improve Health and Wellbeing by Addressing Social Determinants of Health (11/16/23)-** *This press release was a part of a coordinated effort by the Biden-Harris Administration to address SDOH across federal agencies, at all levels of government, and includes links to the first U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health and a CMS Informational Bulletin, among other resources.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/11/16/biden-harris-administration-takes-action-improve-health-and-wellbeing-addressing-social-determinants-health.html>]
- **(Strategy Brief) Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS), Maintaining Momentum to Advance Health Equity in Adverse Environments (11/2023)-** *With other partners, CHCS created this brief detailing five strategies for states policymakers and champions to advance health equity planning and implementation in a context that limits engaging in health equity work.* [Retrieved from: https://www.chcs.org/resource/maintaining-momentum-to-advance-health-equity-in-adverse-environments/?utm_source=CHCS+Email+Updates&utm_campaign=86ab630d7c-CHCS-Monthly-News_Nov_11%2F30%2F23&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-86ab630d7c-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D]
- **(Blog Highlighting Initiative) ASTHO, Centering the Community's Voice in State-Led Health Equity Initiatives (11/21/23)-** *In this blog, ASTHO highlights the Strategies to Repair Equity and Transform Community Health (STRETCH) Initiative and offers resources to support jurisdictions in operationalizing health equity and improved health outcomes.* [Retrieved from: https://www.astho.org/communications/blog/centering-the-communitys-voice-in-state-led-health-equity-initiatives/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=asthophw&utm_campaign=hpu&utm_term=communities&utm_content=nov30]
- **(National Report) Public Reference Board (PRB), Losing More Ground: Revisiting Young Women's Well-Being Across Generations (11/30/23)-** *PRB analyzed various measures across generations in assessment of the wellbeing status of younger generations of women. The assessment indicated younger generations of women lost gains in health and safety.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.prb.org/resources/losing-more-ground/>]

- **(Federal Administration Initiative) White House, Fact Sheet: President Joe Biden to Announce First-Ever White House Initiative on Women’s Health Research, An Effort Led by First Lady Jill Biden and the White House Gender Policy Council (11/13/23)-** *This fact sheet provides an overview of a recently launched initiative of the Biden-Harris Administration to close research gaps and improve women’s health.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/11/13/fact-sheet-president-joe-biden-to-announce-first-ever-white-house-initiative-on-womens-health-research-an-effort-led-by-first-lady-jill-biden-and-the-white-house-gender-policy-council/>]

Other Health News-

- **(International Report) Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Health at a Glance (11/7/23)-** *This report presents indicators of population health and health system performance across OECD members and emerging economies. In this year’s glance, the OECD includes a special focus on digital health and its potential to transform the health system.* [Retrieved from: https://www.oecd.org/health/health-at-a-glance/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosvitals&stream=top]
- **(Colorado-Mentioned Report) U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), GAO-24-105891, Public Health Preparedness: Building and Maintaining Infrastructure beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic (11/7/23)-** *In this report, the GAO analyzed federal data and interviewed select jurisdictional officials to identify challenges in building and maintaining infrastructure sufficient for public health threats.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-105891>]
- **(Community Initiative Spotlight/Innovation) Governing, Loneliness Is a Policy Problem. A Big One (11/6/23)-** *This piece is an interview with a San Antonio-based minister charged with improving connections among community entities and members, in effort to address the U.S. Surgeon General’s advisory.* [Retrieved from: https://www.governing.com/health/loneliness-is-a-policy-problem-a-big-one?utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20GOV%20-%20Daily&utm_medium=email&_hsmt=282100618&_hsenc=p2ANqtz---sMifBxt_o7evcrA0jiNKWDY7PhODgcyxLgpNtOq091d62r_gcJ9hAeX002pcXGaRjmuV1EzSxcrdifi72LSH5hyQBFOnc_B_x0pDNPDTkvAdjfnSj1GZ837IHZvJCxVXIO&utm_content=282100618&utm_source=hs_email]
- **(Alternatives to Incarceration Spotlight/Innovation) The City, Help, Not Jail, Now Under Construction for People with Mental Illness (11/14/23)-** *This article highlights a Bronx-based development, Hope House, which will serve as a residential alternative to incarceration for people with mental illness.* [Retrieved from: https://www.thecity.nyc/2023/11/14/hope-house-groundbreaking-mental-illness-alternatives-incarceration/?&utm_source=%20urban_newsletters&utm_medium=news-HHM&utm_term=HHM]
- **(Annual Federal Report) HHS-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) Releases (released 11/13/23)-** *This report presents the annual nationally representative sample of civilian, noninstitutionalized individuals, 12 years and over, to gather information about the prevalence of behavioral health issues and treatment.* [Retrieved from: https://www.samhsa.gov/data/release/2022-national-survey-drug-use-and-health-nsduh-releases?utm_source=SAMHSA&utm_campaign=a79c9bff7c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_09_12_04_27&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-a79c9bff7c-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D]
- **(National Climate Report) HHS, HHS Factsheet: National Climate Assessment 5 Unveiled (11/14/23)-** *This fact sheet presents the Fifth National Climate Assessment along with specific initiatives within HHS to address health-related impacts of climate change.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/11/14/hhs-factsheet-national-climate-assessment-5-unveiled.html>]
 - **U.S. Global Change Research Program, Fifth National Climate Assessment (11/2023)-** <https://www.globalchange.gov/our-work/fifth-national-climate-assessment>
- **(Elder Care Series) KFF with the New York Times, Dying Broke (2023)-** *In mid-November, KFF with the New York Times began a series examining the cost of elder care. The following link is to the series’ website for various articles spanning the topic.* [Retrieved from: <https://kffhealthnews.org/news/tag/dying-broke/>]
- **(National Housing Report) Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University (Center), Housing America’s Older Adults 2023 (11/2023)-** *Receiving national media attention, this report was prepared as part of the Center’s efforts to improve equitable access to decent, affordable homes in thriving communities and finds an urgent need for housing suitable for older homeowners and housing-based care.* [Retrieved from: https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/reports/files/Harvard_JCHS_Housing_Americas_Older_Adults_2023.pdf]
- **(Report on Rural Aging Services) The Commonwealth Fund (The Fund), Helping Older Adults Age Well in Rural America (11/9/23)-** *This report showcases health and long-term care providers serving rural older adults.* [Retrieved from: https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/2023/nov/helping-older-adults-age-well-rural-america?utm_campaign=Improving%20Health%20Care%20Quality&utm_medium=email&_hsmt=281947874&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8rzfTST1Rhu5B1Xw1NPLXws80eApeBJPhwrlZ5Pjt2SYs5SbLM8nm0KVUS65ewOC6TqwbO6dIQ1FrIT9KYo5jCPQSF0yqSXzG3TZtKlnwSq2lvL5FUdM5aYYDMAVKf8ZsNG6&utm_source=alerf]