

eHealth Commission July 2023 News Highlights

Health IT-

- **(Final Federal Rule) Health Care Dive, HHS finalizes info blocking penalties for IT vendors, kickstarting enforcement (6/28/23)**- *The article provides an overview of the finalized penalties for health IT companies found to be blocking health information. [Retrieved from: <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/hhs-oig-information-blocking-penalties-final-rule/654079/>]*
 - *More about information block, including a link to the published final rule, can be found on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)-Office of Inspector General's (OIG) webpage. [Retrieved from: <https://oig.hhs.gov/reports-and-publications/featured-topics/information-blocking/>]*
- **(News on Federal Rulemaking) FedScoop, Regulations to govern use of AI in health records could come later this year (6/28/23)**- *The article speaks to plans of the HHS-Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) that would require electronic health record systems using AI and algorithms to provide users with information about how the technology works. [Retrieved from: <https://fedscoop.com/hhs-health-it-division-carving-out-artificial-intelligence-niche/>]*
- **(Federal Data Brief) ONC, Data Brief No. 66, Progress and Ongoing Challenges to Electronic Public Health Reporting Among Non-Federal Acute Care Hospitals (6/2023)**- *As taken from the overview, this "data brief uses nationally representative survey data from the 2022 American Hospital Association (AHA) Information Technology (IT) supplement to describe non-federal acute care hospitals' active engagement towards electronically submitting data for required and optional public health and hospital capacity reporting." The analysis shows progress on the part of hospitals' rates of electronic reporting since 2021, but also discusses challenges to hospitals' capacity to provide timely and accurate data. [Retrieved from: <https://www.healthit.gov/data/data-briefs/progress-and-ongoing-challenges-electronic-public-health-reporting-among-non>]*
- **(Research Article) Health Services Research, Interoperability among hospitals treating populations that have been marginalized (5/23/23)**- *According to this study highlighted by ONC, hospitals treating patients from areas with high social deprivation were not as likely to engage in interoperable exchange. The authors speak to the use of data to monitor and address interoperability disparities, avoiding related health care disparities. [Retrieved from: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1475-6773.14165>]*

Broadband-

- **(Colorado-Mentioned Article) Government Technology, Which States Received the Most Broadband Funding from BEAD? (6/30/23)**- *This article discusses the recent awards to states from the U.S. Department of Commerce-National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) as part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Internet for All initiative. In addition to the overall awards by state, the article displays per capita amounts by state and provides other informational links. [Retrieved from: https://www.govtech.com/biz/data/which-states-received-the-most-broadband-funding-from-bead?utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20GT%20-%20GovTech%20Today&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=264803604&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9NBz_Cm52UoEkvs3ljTAyQj-s28yXsrJs1tqeUqxEJozPXEqZnvlj2H8wRLebPhRY9kQfPDda1wkyUIFDX_PS1MByray0v1bj_IdZSGW06CYiHDPXjT37I2-b4sE6AyE_S4ljo&utm_content=264710698&utm_source=hs_email]*
- **(Federal News Release) Federal Communications Commission (FCC), FCC Explores Broadband Connectivity Role in Maternal Health Outcomes (6/20/23)**- *In its mapping of the intersection between broadband and health, the FCC most recently added maternal health data per this news release. The news release includes a link to the latest mapping. [Retrieved from: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-explores-broadband-connectivity-role-maternal-health-outcomes>]*
- **(White House Release) White House, FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration and Civic Nation Bring Together Over 300 National and Community Organizations to Help Students and Families Cut Costs and Access Affordable High-Speed Internet (6/14/23)**- *This fact sheet highlights activities across the nation to improve affordability and access to high-speed internet. It provides the launch of Online for All, a digital equity campaign, including the campaign's website. [Retrieved at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/06/14/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-and-civic-nation-bring-together-over-300-national-and-community-organizations-to-help-students-and-families-cut-costs-and-access-affordable-high-speed-internet/>]*

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)/Health Equity-

- **(Article in Series on SDOH) Health Data Management (HDM), Unlocking health equity: The promise and challenges of integrating social determinants of health data (6/7/23)-** *The article discusses the need to understand the impact of social determinants on patient health, in tandem with the complexity of data collection and integration. This article is part of a “deep dive” into SDOH undertaken by HDM in June.* [Retrieved from: https://www.healthdatamanagement.com/articles/unlocking-health-equity-the-promise-and-challenges-of-integrating-social-determinants-of-health-data?utm_campaign=HDM%20Group%20Newsletters&utm_medium=email&hsmi=261686297&hsenc=p2ANqtz-e-Mg5LyEiFz-UPSylUqVQfVcsAMrlCPZDPzANo27aNW6xZdMO-oERGR4JcoOnE9YSymyWDnXCF-qgB1C1PktqzMjsBffAAkcslr u6XuwwkaR4QbOlrsWNSINs1sfOedChmP8pZ&utm_content=261686297&utm_source=hs_email]
- **(Resource Guide) Change Lab Solutions, Strategies for Equitable Policymaking: Law & Policy Frameworks to Improve Health-** *As part of its ongoing efforts to help policymakers and communities address drivers of health inequity, Change Lab Solutions presents this 2023 release, a resource guide that adds to its 2019 A Blueprint for Changemakers: Achieving Health Equity Through Law & Policy.* [Retrieved from: https://www.changelabsolutions.org/product/blueprint-changemakers?utm_source=ChangeLab+Solutions+Active&utm_campaign=9545c43ca6-BPC_Drivers_Launch_0621&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-f3bad052cc-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D]
- **(Health Equity Brief) Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), LGBT+ People’s Health Status and Access to Care (6/30/23)-** *In effort to better understand the health care needs and experiences of individuals who identify as LGBT+, KFF has analyzed a nationally representative survey of adults conducted in May-June 2022 and presents findings within this brief.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.kff.org/report-section/lgbt-peoples-health-status-and-access-to-care-issue-brief/>]
- **(Federal Report) HHS-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), SAMHSA Releases New Data on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Behavioral Health (6/13/23)-** *This press announcement releases a new data report, with link to the full report. The report provides data about the prevalence of behavioral health conditions among individuals who identify as LGBT+.* [Retrieved from: https://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/20230613/samhsa-releases-new-data-lesbian-gay-bisexual-behavioral-health?utm_source=SAMHSA&utm_campaign=b38de55c9f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_06_08_08_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-b38de55c9f-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&utm_source=SAMHSA&utm_campaign=174171db86-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_06_14_02_51&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-174171db86-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D]
- **(Article about Poverty/Health Research) Newsweek, Poverty Is Killing Nearly 200,000 Americans a Year (6/19/23)-** *This article discusses recent research that attributes more deaths to poverty in 2019 than other leading risk factors—fourth following heart disease, cancer, and smoking.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.newsweek.com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.newsweek.com/poverty-killing-nearly-200000-americans-year-1806002?amp=1>]
- **(Issue Brief) Child Trends, Healthy Schools Can Mitigate Ongoing Racial Inequities in Education (6/6/23)-** *As taken from its introduction, the brief highlights six areas of education inequity linked to health and well-being that “healthy schools” are well-positioned to dismantle.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/healthy-schools-can-mitigate-ongoing-racial-inequities-in-education>]
- **(Article about Health Study) TechTarget-Patient Engagement HIT, MGH Brigham’s Food Is Medicine Program Cut Childhood BMI (6/27/23)-** *This article discusses and provides a link to a recent study from Mass General Brigham. Adding to the concept of “food as medicine”, the study lends evidence that provision of plant-based food packages to families experiencing food insecurity improved BMI in children.* [Retrieved from: https://patientengagementhit.com/news/mgh-brighams-food-is-medicine-program-cut-childhood-bmi?utm_source=nl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter]
- **(California-Focused Report) University of California, San Francisco Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness (6/2023)-** *This study is deemed “the largest representative study of homelessness in the United States since the mid-1990s”, including the causes and consequences of homelessness in California. While specific to California, the study has received national attention and holds possible insights for other jurisdictions.* [Retrieved from: <https://homelessness.ucsf.edu/our-impact/our-studies/california-statewide-study-people-experiencing-homelessness>]

Medicaid-

- **(Issue Brief) KFF, What Does the Recent Literature Say About Medicaid Expansion?: Impacts on Sexual and Reproductive Health (6/29/23)-** *In this brief, KFF summarizes over 40 studies about the impacts of Medicaid expansion on sexual and reproductive health outcomes. These studies identify positive effects of Medicaid expansion.* [Retrieved from: https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/what-does-the-recent-literature-say-about-medicaid-expansion-impacts-on-sexual-and-reproductive-health/?utm_campaign=KFF-2023-The-Latest&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=264693958&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9Bq9FsGEwtlnOKnEt6y028vL4cOBq7dliq8WOY6-raPvbFzZ7tujMEjVwKVtbaUkvgRrxqzuiQUidiY8IM4RDYwPWbxPCze_AG8br4SM7_BmCNs9s&utm_content=264693958&utm_source=hs_email]
- **(National Commission Report) Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), June 2023 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP (6/2023)-** *The report includes four chapters covering payment policy for safety net hospitals, integrating care for people who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, coverage for adults exiting incarceration, and barriers to home- and community-based services.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.macpac.gov/publication/june-2023-report-to-congress-on-medicaid-and-chip/>]
- **(Federal Expenditure Projections) HHS-Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), National Health Expenditure Data-Projected (6/14/23)-** *The CMS-Office of the Actuary released updated projections of health care spending through 2031.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/NationalHealthExpendData/NationalHealthAccountsProjected>]
- **(Colorado-Mentioned Brief) KFF, Fiscal Implications for Medicaid of Enhanced Federal Funding and Continuous Enrollment (6/16/23)-** *In the issue brief, KFF examines Medicaid spending and estimates each state's amount of enhanced federal funding during the continuous enrollment period.* [Retrieved at: https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/fiscal-implications-for-medicaid-of-enhanced-federal-funding-and-continuous-enrollment/?utm_campaign=KFF-2023-Medicaid&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=262774904&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--Uzi-WikClfj9S9WBSPXxlfizEsqDxVoQ8SLMo3MIXtv1C2Gxz96-DLpwa6FvF9GnRFQoWVG9PsAg-DtAvFzcRER9jdXuzcZe6Zt8PfbLfo5vnDZ0&utm_content=262774904&utm_source=hs_email]
- **(Colorado-Mentioned Federal Press Release) HHS-CMS, CMS Announces Multi-State Initiative to Strengthen Primary Care (6/8/23)-** *In this press release, CMS announces a new primary care model, the Making Care Primary (MCP) Model, and plans to test the model in eight states, including Colorado.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-multi-state-initiative-strengthen-primary-care>]

Public Health/Other Health News-

- **(National Study) RTI International, Mental and Substance Use Disorders Prevalence Study: Findings Report (2023)-** *This SAMHSA-supported study released in June offers up-to-date prevalence rates and treatment estimates of specific mental health disorders in the U.S. adult population.* [Retrieved from: https://www.rti.org/publication/mental-and-substance-use-disorders-prevalence-study?utm_source=SAMHSA&utm_campaign=a950189656-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_06_09_01_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a950189656-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D]
- **(Colorado-Mentioned Scorecard) The Commonwealth Fund (The Fund), 2023 Scorecard on State Health System Performance (6/22/23)-** *The Fund annually creates a scorecard on how well the health care system works in every U.S. state and discusses trends and highlights.* [Retrieved from: https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/scorecard/2023/jun/2023-scorecard-state-health-system-performance?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosvitals&stream=top]
- **(Colorado-Mentioned Brief) National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), An Early Look at State Opioid Settlement Spending (6/12/23)-** *The issue brief provides a snapshot of states' published opioid settlement spending plans and appropriations.* [Retrieved from: <https://nashp.org/an-early-look-at-state-opioid-settlement-spending-decisions/>]
- **(Article about Study) Governing, Public Health Needs a Political Strategy, Not Just Funding (6/14/23)-** *This article reviews a recent study that provides a look at the inner workings of five states' public health systems, resulting in a call for a larger political strategy to engage county and local officials. A link to the published study is provided.* [Retrieved from: https://www.governing.com/work/public-health-needs-a-political-strategy-not-just-funding?utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20GOV%20-%20Daily&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=262349844&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9CdwjtjG2ZmYIP7NG08uCUlb-Lup2wluTh_pPXJMRkvu0H7OZVdkt4mXNwobNuTbmhoiYtlczcVhnozpoecw426EEUo97UvTgveWgPx_ndAy0bT7KJPN-jfTdj3w6yTlbyxn5V&utm_content=262349844&utm_source=hs_email]