

eHealth Commission November 2023 News Highlights

Health IT-

- **(Federal Proposed Rule) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)-Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), HHS Proposes Rule to Establish Disincentives for Health Care Providers that Have Committed Information Blocking (10/30/23)-** *This press release announces ONC's official filing of a proposed rule to disincentivize information blocking in complement to other recent federal efforts, with helpful links. Comments on the proposed rule are due January 2, 2024.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/10/30/hhs-proposes-rule-establish-disincentives-health-care-providers-have-committed-information-blocking.html>]
- **(Federal Notice) HHS-Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response, Request for Information (RFI): HHS Initiative to Enhance National All Hazards Hospital Situational Awareness (10/18/23)-** *This Federal Register notice seeks input on a national, all-hazards standardized set of essential elements of information and vendor-neutral data collection mechanisms for hospital data to drive action for emergency preparedness and response. Inputs are due by December 18, 2023.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-10-18/pdf/2023-22931.pdf>]
- **(Federal Brief) ONC Data Brief No. 69, Individuals' Access and Use of Patient Portals and Smartphone Health Apps, 2022 (10/2023)-** *The brief provides data analysis from a survey of a nationally representative sample of U.S. adults about their access and use of online medical records and patient portals.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.healthit.gov/data/data-briefs/individuals-access-and-use-patient-portals-and-smartphone-health-apps-2022>]
- **(Federal Resources) HHS Office for Civil Rights Issues Resources for Health Care Providers and Patients to Help Educate Patients about Telehealth and the Privacy and Security of Protected Health Information (10/18/23)-** *This press release announces two new resources focused on risks to protected health information and patient tips when using telehealth technologies.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/10/18/civil-rights-issues-resources-help-educate-patients-telehealth-privacy-security-protected-health-information.html>]
- **(Federally Issued Toolkit) Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency with HHS and Health Sector Coordinating Council (HSCC), Healthcare and Public Health Cybersecurity Toolkit (released 10/2023)-** *The Biden administration released this toolkit to improve defenses of the U.S. healthcare infrastructure against hackers.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.cisa.gov/topics/cybersecurity-best-practices/healthcare>]
- **(Article Spotlighting States) Journal of AHIMA, Health Data Utilities Viewed by Some as Option to Improve Data Sharing (9/25/23)-** *The article discusses three states' efforts to move beyond health information exchanges (HIEs) to health data utilities (HDUs).* [Retrieved from: https://journal.ahima.org/page/health-data-utilities-viewed-by-some-as-option-to-improve-data-sharing?cerkl_ue=zv2s4gl4qfs%2bw%2fw0jdpjaap%2baerln81rs7th2ube9s94vpkfmnp6vjiqvc%2brsax&utm_source=cerkl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-10042023]
- **(Federal Agency Blog) ONC, Health IT Buzz: Patient Preferences with Social Needs Information Sharing (10/26/23)-** *This blog discusses recent findings from ONC's analysis of new data from the 2022 Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS 6), a nationally representative sample size.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.healthit.gov/buzz-blog/health-information-exchange-2/patient-preferences-with-social-needs-information-sharing>]
- **(Federal Register Notice) HHS-Health Information Technology Advisory Committee (HITAC) Schedule of Meetings (10/27/23)-** *This Federal Register notice contains the HITAC meeting schedule through calendar year 2024.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-10-27/pdf/2023-23762.pdf>]
- **(National Data Sets and Elements) ONC, United States Core Data for Interoperability Version 4 (USCDI v4) (10/2023)-** *The USCDI is a standardized set of health data and data elements for national interoperable health information exchange. The latest version was recently released.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.healthit.gov/isa/sites/isa/files/2023-10/USCDI-Version-4-October-2023-Errata-Final.pdf>]
- **(Report on States' Telehealth Policies) Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP), State Telehealth Laws and Medicaid Program Policies: Fall 2023 (10/24/23)-** *This report provides the highlights and findings of a scan of the 50 states and select territories' telehealth laws and policies between late May and early September 2023.* [Retrieved from: https://www.cchpca.org/2023/10/Fall2023_ExecutiveSummaryfinal.pdf]

* All site retrieved 11/2/23.

Broadband/Digital Equity-

- **(Article on Federal Efforts) Route Fifty, A new federal proposal looks to take on digital redlining (10/25/23)-** *The article provides an overview of a newly proposed rule by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that would give the FCC the ability to penalize a broadband company if the company's policy leads to residents in more affluent areas having better service than residents in poorer areas.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.route-fifty.com/infrastructure/2023/10/new-federal-proposal-looks-take-digital-redlining/391526/>]
- **(Federal Inquiry) FCC Launches Inquiry into Broadband Connectivity for Maternal Health (10/19/23)-** *The press release announces the launch of a federal inquiry into the role of broadband to improve maternal care.* [Retrieved from: https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-launches-inquiry-broadband-connectivity-maternal-health?utm_campaign=Newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sendgrid]
- **(Colorado-Mentioned Federal Dashboard) U.S. Department of Commerce-National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), BEAD Initial Proposal Progress Dashboard (10/2023)-** *This dashboard displays a progress update for BEAD eligible entities in their initial BEAD proposal due December 27, 2023.* [Retrieved from: https://internetforall.gov/bead-initial-proposal-progress-dashboard?utm_campaign=Newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sendgrid]
- **(Federal Request for Comment) NTIA, Initiative to Protect Youth Mental Health, Safety & Privacy Online: Notice and request for comment (10/2/23)-** *NTIA seeks to protect youth while they are online and, at the same time, preserve the benefits of online platforms. To guide their work, NTIA requests public comments through November 16, 2023.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-10-02/pdf/2023-21606.pdf>]
- **(Study Article) Discovery Education with Comcast, Digital Equity and Schools: A 2022/2023 Study by Discovery Education (2023)-** *This report provides findings and analysis from a study to better understand remaining barriers to home internet adoption among students and their families.* [Retrieved from: https://www.discoveryeducation.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/DE-Comcast-Digital-Equity-Report.pdf?utm_campaign=Newsletters&utm_source=sendgrid&utm_medium=email]

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)/Health Equity-

- **(ROI Tool) Health Begins with The Commonwealth Fund (The Fund) and SCAN Foundation, The Return on Investment (ROI) Calculator for Health Care Partnerships to Address Social Needs (10/24/23)-** *The calculator can be used by community-based and healthcare organizations to create sustainable partnerships in social services delivery for people with complex needs.* [Retrieved from: <https://roi.healthbegins.org/welcome>]
- **(Structural Racism Brief) Urban Institute, A Conceptual Map of Structural Racism in Health Care (10/25/23)-** *The brief establishes a conceptual map of structural racism in health care, inclusive of laws, policies, practices, and norms contributing to health inequities and opportunities for intervention.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/A%20Conceptual%20Map%20of%20Structural%20Racism%20in%20Health%20Care.pdf>]
- **(Topical Series) Health Affairs, October 2023: Tackling Structural Racism in Health (released 10/2/23)-** *This publication includes multiple, open access articles conveying commentary, research, and data about racism in the healthcare system.* [Retrieved from: https://www.healthaffairs.org/toc/hlthaff/42/10?vgo_ee=sK%2FpEZVrisZrwuHq0HDFqIpGOIG0uQr%2Fip%2FG%2BIB49TfyiExeif%2F6ZDARB7fWdm9Y0y0O5deQ%2FCKq%3A Xu4xAKpXjPMuoTnPr0OJ3RIHABTu45nt]
- **(Research Publication) JAMA Pediatrics, Patterns of Social Determinants of Health and Child Mental Health, Cognition, and Physical Health (10/16/23)-** *This study of over 10,000 children showed that the worst mental health, cognitive performance, and physical health outcomes were found in the high socioeconomic deprivation group, which could inform more targeted public health and social policies to address these developmental disparities.* [Retrieved from: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2810494>]
- **(Federally Sponsored Research) National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, Reducing Intergenerational Poverty (2023)-** *This research report offers an examination of intergenerational poverty, including a review of existing research, disproportionality based on race and ethnicity, and potential opportunities to reduce the key drivers of intergenerational poverty.* [Retrieved from: <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/27058/reducing-intergenerational-poverty>]
- **(New Resource Center) Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS), Child Health Transformation Resource Center (10/2023)-** *The new resource center is a product of the Accelerating Child Health Transformation, an initiative lead by CHCS with Robert Wood Johnson Foundation support. It offers tools to transform child health through three key strategies (in brief): anti-racist practices, equitable partnerships, and family resilience.* [Retrieved from: https://www.chcs.org/resource-center/accelerating-child-health-transformation-a-resource-center/?utm_source=CHCS+Email+Updates&utm_campaign=9246718f47-CHCS-Monthly-News_October_10%2F31%2F23&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-9246718f47-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D]

- **(Research Article) Brookings, Educational opportunity and access to pediatric care are more intertwined than you might think (10/10/23)**- *The article summarizes a study evidencing a connection between the saturation of pediatricians in an area and the area's school achievement levels, with links to the study and related resources.* [Retrieved from: https://www.brookings.edu/articles/educational-opportunity-and-access-to-pediatric-care-are-more-intertwined-than-you-might-think/?utm_campaign=Brookings%20Brief&utm_medium=email&utm_content=278304838&utm_source=hs_email]
- **(Research Article) Nature Mental Health, Discrimination exposure impacts unhealthy processing of food cues: crosstalk between the brain and gut (10/2/23)**- *The open access article discusses findings linking discrimination to obesity.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s44220-023-00134-9>]
- **(Federal Report) U.S. Department of Agriculture-Food and Nutrition Service (USDA), ERS Household Food Security in the U.S. 2022 (10/25/23)**- *The report gives U.S. households' food security statistics for 2022 and shows a significantly higher percentage of households that are food insecure than in 2021.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/ers/household-food-security-2022>]
- **(Data Study Brief) Urban Institute (UI), Four in Ten Adults with Disabilities Experienced Unfair Treatment in Health Care Settings, at Work, or When Applying for Public Benefits in 2022 (10/11/23)**- *In this brief, UI uses data from late 2022 to examine rates at which adults with and without disabilities reported unfair treatment or judgement in three settings (i.e., medical, employment, and application for public benefits) and the impact on their wellbeing.* [Retrieved from: https://www.urban.org/research/publication/four-ten-adults-disabilities-experienced-unfair-treatment-health-care-settings?utm_source=urban_newsletters&utm_campaign=HPC&utm_id=health_and_healthcare]
- **(Article about Recent Studies) Axios, The U.S. mental health crisis is taking an uneven toll (10/11/23)**- *The article cites and summarizes three recent studies evidencing disparities among mental health statistics.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.axios.com/2023/10/11/us-mental-health-racial-socioeconomic-toll>]
- **(Practice Brief) Center for Health Care Strategies, Engaging Community Members: A Guide to Equitable Compensation (10/2023)**- *The brief offers tips to equitable compensation for community member engagement, assuring insights through their lived experiences.* [Retrieved from: https://www.chcs.org/resource/engaging-community-members-a-guide-to-equitable-compensation/?utm_source=CHCS+Email+Updates&utm_campaign=ed947417d0-CE-Compensation-Piece_10%2F17%2F23&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-ed947417d0-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D]
- **(Article on New Federal Allowance) Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) Health News, Health Care 'Game Changer'? Feds Boost Care for Homeless Americans (10/19/23)**- *This article discusses the new federal allowance for insurers to pay "street medicine" providers for medical services any place unhoused people might be staying.* [Retrieved from: https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/street-medicine-cms-new-reimbursement-code/?utm_campaign=KHN%3A%20Daily%20Health%20Policy%20Report&utm_medium=email&hsmi=279011719&hsenc=p2ANqtz-9lw8RUbelvQjkDeC2hGpCGgBjVhTWDbnoKR09VL1iC_YERE3ZUy13P12g4MP_MFmrF3e2T21R3yMVv3CNpK_6_rDWhgn5UKcPV8kSsBdXEj8F41m8&utm_content=279011719&utm_source=hs_email]

Public Health/Other Health News-

- **(Federal Data Tool) HHS-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Data Analysis System for SAMHSA Studies (10/2023)**- *The new tool allows public access to substance abuse and mental health data with the intent of improving understanding about critical public health issues.* [Retrieved from: <https://datatools.samhsa.gov/>]
- **(National Survey Findings) The Fund, Paying for It: How Health Care Costs and Medical Debt Are Making Americans Sicker and Poorer: Findings from the Commonwealth Fund 2023 Health Care Affordability Survey (10/26/23)**- *The Fund reviews its 2023 affordability survey, evidencing that many Americans have inadequate coverage resulting in delayed or forgone care, debt, and worsening health.* [Retrieved from: https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/surveys/2023/oct/paying-for-it-costs-debt-americans-sicker-poorer-2023-affordability-survey?utm_campaign=Achieving%20Universal%20Coverage&utm_medium=email&hsmi=279980337&hsenc=p2ANqtz-90Ww9c6yDIY2RiutX5plZY_vfIikclLityWcmRX-ednOb1dNj-ZJBpff-CHLXWkIvPBMJpLSIUbcGfNAkCihZKcgsHyP-QcVKH2kOaVYHQTEhojvfpkN5AsXy3FD7Dp08mBL8&utm_source=alert]
- **(Federal Fact Sheet) White House, Fact Sheet: President Biden Issues Executive Order on Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (10/30/23)**- *This fact sheet summarizes the lengthy presidential executive order pertaining to AI.* [Retrieved from: https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/10/30/fact-sheet-president-biden-issues-executive-order-on-safe-secure-and-trustworthy-artificial-intelligence/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axiosam&stream=top]
- **(Federal Campaign Website) HHS-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Impact Wellbeing (10/2023)**- *The new website promotes the CDC campaign giving hospitals solutions to reduce healthcare worker burnout and help healthcare workers thrive.* [Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/impactwellbeing/>]