



Whole Child Health Alliance

Quarterly Resource Scan | Q4

About the Quarterly Resource Scan

The Whole Child Health Alliance (“Alliance”) envisions a future in which all children can experience optimal health and reach their full potential. To achieve this vision, we believe that organizations that pay for and provide services for children must coordinate and collaborate to meet the developmental, social, physical, and mental health needs of children and youth – which includes supporting the development of positive relationships between children and youth and their caregivers.

One key strategy to advance this vision is to build out the concept of whole child health by researching, identifying and describing the key elements of whole child health. The goal of the Quarterly Resource Scan is to catalog new research, analysis, guidance and tools that advance the key elements of whole child health. By doing so, we aim to enhance our members’ understanding of the latest policies and practices that advance whole child health, which will, in turn, inform the Alliance’s priorities and strategies.

Scope

The Quarterly Resource Scan will be curated to include publications that discuss policies and/or practices that advance the [Key Elements of Whole Child Health](#) or other topics that are closely related to whole child health (e.g., child-related Medicaid/Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) policy). The Quarterly Resource Scan will include peer-reviewed studies, policy reports and analyses, case studies and relevant toolkits. The Quarterly Resource Scan will not include federal or state policy guidance, legislation or press releases relevant to whole child health. Those resources will be included in the Alliance’s quarterly newsletter.

Resources

State and Provider Profiles

[Creating the Healthiest Generations of Children: How Nemours Children’s Health is Increasing Accessibility to Health Education](#)

Delaware Journal of Public Health

October 2024

Adrienne Palmer, CLS; and Erica Singleton, MPH, CHES

This article describes the relationship between health education and healthy adolescent behaviors. It also discusses how Nemours Children’s Hospital, Delaware established a Community Health Education team that collaborates with community organizations to provide health education in the community.

[Transforming Missouri’s Children’s Behavioral Health System: Early Impacts of Cross-System Collaboration](#)

Center for Health Care Strategies

October 2024

Jordan Carl, MPH; and Ruby Goyal-Carkeek, MBA

Missouri state agencies (i.e., child welfare, juvenile justice, Medicaid, and behavioral health) have collaborated to create two cross-sector groups to address the pediatric mental health crisis. The groups, called Missouri Children’s Mental Health Collaborative and the Continuum of Care Workgroup, focus on systems-level change to improve the health of children and families. This state

profile provides reflections from Missouri state officials as they work to improve the behavioral health system in the state.

Research and Reports

Quality Improvement to Identify and Address Food Insecurity During Pediatric Hospitalizations

Hospital Pediatrics November 2024

Cristin Q. Fritz, MD, MPH; Gabrielle C. Lyons, Amber R. Monaghan, RN, MSN, CPN, et al.

This study utilized a multidisciplinary team and a quality improvement mechanism to improve routine screening for food insecurity within the hospital setting. The intervention improved screening rates for eligible families and increased provision of resources to individuals that screened positive.

Leveraging the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Process to Advance Health Equity

Pediatrics November 2024

Jack E. Turman, Jr, PhD; Susanna Joy, MA; Rosemary Fournier, RN, BSN

This paper examines how Indianapolis' FIMR team built the capacity of its Community Action Team (CAT) to address racial disparities in birth outcomes by focusing on the primary causes of fetal/infant mortality, focusing on neighborhoods with highest fetal/infant mortality rates, and leveraging Grassroots Maternal and Child Health Leaders on the CAT.

Caregiver Perspectives on Improving Government Nutrition Benefit Programs

Pediatrics November 2024

Dana Rose Negro, BS; Mishaal Yazdani, BS; Lindsay Benitez, BS; et al.

This study interviewed caregivers of pediatric patients who are current or former Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients to evaluate potential barriers to WIC/SNAP participation.

Identified barriers included:

- Limited product variety available through WIC.
- Inconvenience and stigma associated with purchasing WIC products.
- SNAP income-based eligibility criteria.
- Burdensome SNAP enrollment and recertification processes.

Suggestions for improvement included:

- Decreasing stigma associated with participation.
- Allowing online or phone-based enrollment.
- Improving coordination with health care systems.

2023 National Survey of Children's Health

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) October 2024

HRSA released its annual survey that evaluates the health and health care needs of children and adolescents. The survey provides information on topics including health conditions, health-related behaviors, health care access and utilization, social and emotional wellness, and the school environment.

Preventing Child Welfare System Involvement: Opportunities for Primary Care and Medicaid to Advance Health Equity

Center for Health Care Strategies

October 2024

Olivia Randi, MPP; and Kelsey Brykman, MS

This report outlines the role of primary care providers in preventing family involvement with the child welfare system and lays out effective prevention methods that primary care practices can implement. The report also provides recommendations on how Medicaid can support practices to enable delivery system reforms that prevent child welfare involvement.

2024 UnitedHealthcare Community & State Medicaid Trends Report

United Healthcare Community & State

October 2024

This report expands upon Optum's [Annual Health Care Trends Report](#), which describes the factors driving change in health care. In alignment with the Optum report, this report analyzes trends influencing Medicaid, including equitable outcomes, workforce challenges, and regulatory complexities. The report also identifies areas of growth to increase health care accessibility and promote value-based care.

Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations and Disparities in Pediatric Asthma Care

Journal of the American Medical Association

October 2024

Kimberley H. Geissler, PhD; Meng-Shiou Shieh, PhD; Arlene S. Ash, PhD; et al.

This study evaluated the association between the implementation of the Massachusetts Medicaid Accountable Care Organization (ACO) and changes in quality of care and health care utilization among children with asthma who participate in the Massachusetts Medicaid ACO compared to children with asthma who are privately insured. The study showed the following results for children covered by the Massachusetts Medicaid ACO as compared to privately insured children post-implementation of the ACO:

- No significant change in routine asthma visits.
- Increase in appropriate asthma medication ratios.
- Increase in Emergency Department and hospital use for Medicaid-enrolled children.

These results indicated that the implementation of the Massachusetts Medicaid ACO did not reduce disparities in asthma care and outcomes for children who participate in the Massachusetts Medicaid ACO versus children who are privately insured.

Webinars and Presentations

Panel Discussion on Multi-Year Continuous Eligibility for Children.

Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC)

October 2024

Joanne Jee, MPH

This MACPAC panel discussed policies and considerations related to continuous eligibility for children covered under Medicaid and CHIP. The panelists discussed lessons learned, policy and programmatic considerations, and factors to track through 1115 demonstrations that authorize multi-year continuous eligibility.



Youth Use of Residential Treatment Services: Federal and State Findings

Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC)

October 2024

Melissa Schober, MPM

This MACPAC presentation outlined barriers to accessing residential treatment services for youth. Barriers included lack of timely access to home and community-based mental health services, difficulties arranging transitional services and placements, which prevents timely discharge and freeing up beds, and limited access to data for bed availability for youth who require specialized care.