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Newsletter

March 25, 2015

New Brief: Advancing a Culture of Health: Governors Weigh In

In our latest [brief](#) NASHP looks at the ways governors are creating a culture of health.

Governors hold a unique capacity to help promote a culture of health using the tools of their state governments in purchasing, regulating, and policymaking. Governors in 48 states made State of the State or inaugural addresses in 2015, laying out their priorities for the year ahead.

In these addresses, 40 governors referenced health issues such as Medicaid, behavioral health, insurance exchanges, health care costs, infant mortality, rural health, and improving services for seniors and persons with disabilities. A number spoke to the importance of early child development, and many governors are developing policy agendas to make their states healthier. The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) developed a [summary](#) of health policy issues addressed in the 2015 State of the States.

New Brief: Building An Equitable Health Care Delivery System: Considerations For State And Federal Policymakers

Health disparities persist in the United States, with disadvantaged groups disproportionately bearing the burden of poor health outcomes and shortened lifespans. States cannot effectively control healthcare costs or improve quality without addressing health disparities. Fortunately, state and federal policymakers can work together to build an equitable health care delivery system by aligning payment models, creating new partnerships, and building infrastructure and data systems to reduce health disparities. This [brief](#) reflects on a discussion of health equity held at a meeting of state and federal leaders convened by the National Academy for State Health Policy with the support of The Commonwealth Fund. Included in the [brief](#) are highlights of several states' efforts to promote health equity, including New York, Ohio, and Louisiana.

Massachusetts' Model to Maximize Health Care Savings

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health wanted to find a way to optimize awards from that state's Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund (PWTF) by calculating a potential return on investment by targeting specific health conditions and population thresholds. The PWTF is a state model that supports community-based partnerships to provide research-based interventions to

Estimating Optimal Population Size for PWTF Grants

improve health outcomes and reduce costs in that state. [State Refor\(u\)m recently spoke](#) with Thomas Land, PhD, author of the model used to calculate the optimal population and funding level to determine a potential benefit over cost for the money awarded. You can read the interview and learn more about this model [here](#).

Dental Coverage and the ACA

In the latest Health Affairs Blog, [A Check-Up On Dental Coverage And The ACA](#), NASHP staff Andrew Snyder and Keerti Kanchinadam examine oral health as an important but often overlooked part of health and insurance coverage. While state Medicaid and CHIP are required to cover children's dental services, coverage for adults is optional. Medicare does not cover most dental services, and most private dental coverage is offered through stand-alone dental products that are separate from medical plans. This results in more than 2.5 times as many Americans without dental coverage as those without medical coverage. See the [full post](#).

Don't Forget to Register for Our Webinar: Building an Equitable Health Care Delivery System: Federal and State Strategies

April 2, 2015

3:30-4:30pm ET

Federal and state policymakers are increasingly focused on addressing disparities as part of their approach to improving health, improving health care quality, and reducing costs. This webinar will discuss aligning payment models, creating new partnerships, and building infrastructure and data systems to achieve health equity. Speakers from Ohio and Louisiana will describe their states' health equity initiatives and the federal programs they are leveraging. An official from the CMS Office of Minority Health will describe federal resources to help states advance health equity and opportunities for alignment of federal and state activities.

Register Here

National Academy for State Health Policy

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is an independent academy of state health policymakers who are dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice. A non-profit and non-partisan organization, NASHP provides a forum for constructive work across branches and agencies of state government on critical health policy issues. For more information visit www.nashp.org.

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