

California

Controversial vaccine bills become law– This week, Governor Newsom signed a pair of vaccine bills (SB 276 and SB 714) into law. Hundreds of protesters blocked the entrances of the Capitol building. The two bills tighten the school vaccination policies and create a standardized process for medical exemptions for vaccinations in the state. The new policies will include a phase-out period for medical exemptions and will not retroactively apply to physicians who previously granted high numbers of medical exemptions. To learn more, read *our policy brief*.

Hundreds of police calls made around homeless shelter in North Sacramento– The new shelter opened its doors in early December of 2017. Since then, 800 calls were made to the police department with 97 percent of them being justified according to law enforcement. The calls included suspicious activity, disturbances, assaults, and incidences with mental illness. There was a 30 percent increase in the number of calls made to the department since the opening of the shelter with a peak of 100 calls in July 2018. Crime declined by 12 percent between 2017 and 2018.

Other States

Michigan bans flavored electronic cigarettes– Last week, Michigan became the first state to place such a ban after the state’s health department declared youth vaping a public health emergency. The prohibition applies to sweet flavors as well as menthol and mint. The ban will last six months and will apply to online sales in addition to retail . It is expected to go into effect within the month. This follows San Francisco’s ban on the sale and distribution of e-cigarettes. To learn more about youth and e-cigarettes, read *our issue brief*.

New York City appoints executive director to the new Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes–The new office is under the purview of the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice. It was created to address the surge in hate crimes through intervention and prevention efforts. The new executive director will supervise roughly five employees with a budget of \$1.7 million. Anti-Semitic crimes increased by 82 percent between January and April this year compared to the same time-period last year, and hate crimes of all kinds increased by 67 percent.

New Hampshire governor signs bills that ban the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in some products– PFAS chemicals have been linked to adverse health conditions and are most commonly found in firefighting foam. They are known as “forever chemicals” because they do not break down and have cumulative effects if ingested. They have been linked to cancer and neurodevelopmental issues in children. The new laws will enable the state to retrieve stockpiles of PFAS-based firefighting foam at airports and large facilities. The laws will also create a PFAS limit so that imports and sales of PFAS-containing products such as furniture and carpeting are regulated. PFAS was often used in textile due its anti-flammable properties. In similar news, a former Minnesota attorney general and an executive from the company 3M will testify before the environment subcommittee of the US House Committee on Oversight and Reform on their findings about the dangers of PFAS chemicals.

Hundreds of health care facilities in Florida evacuated in preparation of Hurricane Dorian– Thousands of residents and patients were evacuated from eight hospitals, 18 nursing homes, and 80 assisted-living facilities in Florida in preparation for the potential power outages and water damage from Hurricane Dorian. Many had been placed in hotels or other accommodations that were adjusted to meet patient safety standards and other requirements. Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia had all declared a state of emergency. The death toll from the hurricane may exceed 3,000. The hurricane caused large scale destruction in the Bahamas. It dissipated early this week.

KIDS COUNT report finds racial disparities in suspension rates for students in Wyoming public schools– Conducted by the United States Department of Education, the report found that Native American students and Hispanic students were more likely to receive in and out-of-school suspensions. The report indicates that there may be implicit bias when it comes to disciplining students and recommends using Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

Healthcare-Related Surveys and Polls

18%

Percentage of female physicians who reported leaving their current jobs due to sexual harassment according to a survey conducted by CompHealth.

60%

Percentage of healthcare providers who reported that they felt that it was their duty to work even when feeling sick according to a survey in *Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control*.

72%

Percentage of male respondents who reported that they would rather perform household chores than receive a check-up at their physician's office according to a survey by the Cleveland Clinic.

Newsbytes Relevant to Our Strategic Priorities



To bring focus to our work, the Institute for Health Policy and Leadership has identified three strategic priorities: oral health, mental health and hunger as a health issue. This segment highlights news articles relevant to these priorities.

Oral Health

Researchers from the University College London Eastman Dental Institute find athletes have poor oral health issues– The researchers surveyed Olympic and professional athletes from 11 different sports and checked for tooth decay, acid erosion, and gum issues. They found that 49.1 percent of the athletes had untreated dental caries and roughly one-third of the athletes reported that their oral health has a negative impact on their performance. This may be attributed to the sugar from sports drinks and energy bars as the athletes reported adequate oral health hygiene.

Hunger as
a Health
Issue

New September report by the US Department of Agriculture finds that 11 percent of households are food insecure– Around 14 million people faced food insecurity last year and about 5.6 million people went hungry due to cost and inability to purchase food. Twenty-percent of the food insecure households were African American and 16 percent were Hispanic. While high, these numbers represent a decline since the Great Recession in 2007. The report comes amidst a proposal that would remove states' flexibility to adjust income and asset levels to determine eligibility for food stamps.

Mental/
Behavioral
Health

Riverside, California pastor known for mental health advocacy died by suicide this week– Thirty-year old Jarrid Wilson was the co-founder of Anthem of Hope, a religious organization that provided help to those suffering from mental health and substance abuse. He often spoke about his battle with depression. This month is Suicide Awareness Month and yesterday was World Suicide Prevention Day.

If you would like to subscribe to our weekly newsletter, please [click here!](#)