



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

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Healthcare News At A Glance



National

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) creates new foundry to prepare for public health threats– The Foundry for American Biotechnology will be based out of New Hampshire. The foundry's focus will be on utilizing technology to protect against health security threats. The first project will be focused on addressing drug shortages in case there is a global drug supply chain disruption by making small, portable devices that can be used to create drugs on-site.

Pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly to donate insulin pens to relief organizations– The company will donate nearly 200,000 insulin pens to Americares, Direct Relief, and Dispensary of Hope. These organizations will provide and restock the pens for 200 free clinics throughout the United States. The pharmaceutical company has also donated \$2 million to assist low-income diabetes patients in getting medicine, supplies, and insurance coverage.

President's budget proposal includes nearly \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, research and reimbursements over next ten years– The budget includes a savings target of \$844 billion over the next ten years. The Medicaid cuts are anticipated to occur from states enacting work requirements and the stop to federal funding for Medicaid. The budget also outlines reduced payments to physicians and hospitals which are expected to yield \$600 billion in saving. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health would also see cuts under the new budget. In similar news, the House of Representatives passed a resolution condemning the Medicaid block grant proposal.

US Secretary of Education to include intimate partner violence (IPV) under Title IX– Title IX is a federal civil rights law that states that schools receiving federal funding must ensure that sex discrimination is not allowed in education programs. Secretary DeVos plans to add stalking and dating violence to the definition of sex discrimination under Title IX. The change comes after several students have been killed over the last two decades from an intimate partner. *To learn more about IPV, read our issue brief.*

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) releases new policy to allow for adoption of lab animals used for research– Animals will now be sent to shelters and sanctuaries after the experiments rather than being euthanized.

Highlighted Healthcare Studies

1. Study in *Health Affairs* finds that the number of nurse practitioners (NPs) increased by 109 percent from 91,000 in 2010 to 190,000 in 2017 while the number of physicians increased by 9 percent.
2. Study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* finds that the bulk of maternal deaths in Louisiana between 2016 and 2017 were attributed to homicide, surpassing the rate of obstetric causes of death.
3. Study in *Plos Pathogens* finds that the people who were exposed to a certain virus subtype during their childhood were less likely to be hospitalized if they were exposed to that subtype again later in life.
4. Study in *Demography* finds that the incidence of cesarean (c-section) deliveries in the US increased from 25 percent in 1990 to 31 percent in 2013. During this time, labor induction doubled from 12 percent to 29 percent, the average length of pregnancy decreased from 40 weeks to 39 weeks, and the average birth weight dropped by 67 grams.
5. Study in *Plos One* finds that the average resting heart rate is around 65 beats per minute (bpm) and the daily resting heart rate of Americans can vary quite a bit, ranging from 40 bpm to 109 bpm.
6. Study in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* finds that a calculator that predicts the likelihood of c-section deliveries for women with induced labor can reduce maternal death rates from 27.8 percent to 14 percent for women with a cesarean delivery risk of more than 60 percent.

California

Los Angeles County confirms five cases of measles– The local Department of Public Health suspects that the outbreak spread from an international visitor who was not immunized. The department released a list of public places where the people were known to have been and advised everyone who had been to any of those locations to review their immunization record.

California's 2016 state-funded travel ban challenged by Texas attorney general– In 2016, California passed a ban on state-funded travel to states that had discriminatory laws. This funding ban applies to California agencies, public universities, and boards. Texas was placed on California's list because of a religious-refusal law passed by Texas lawmakers. Texas' attorney general asked the US Supreme Court to strike down the law, saying it was unconstitutional.

Other States

Federal appeals court affirms ruling to allow Idaho to provide gender-confirmation surgery to a transgender inmate– Prison doctors diagnosed the inmate with gender dysphoria. While the inmate identifies as female, she was born male and, therefore, placed in a men's prison. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the state to pay for the gender confirmation surgery, citing that denying the surgery is cruel and unusual punishment under the Eight Amendment. Idaho's governor may appeal the decision in which case it will head to the Supreme Court and may be postponed until next year around the inmate's release date.

Maryland to ban disposable flavored e-cigarettes– The president's administration enacted a ban last week on all flavored e-cigarettes with the exception of tobacco and menthol. Maryland's state comptroller announced that the state would expand the ban to disposable e-cigarettes, open tank systems, and e-liquids that do not fall under the federal policy. Disposable e-cigarettes are popular among the youth and tend to be cheaper. In other Maryland news, Adventist HealthCare will be in charge of operations of Howard University Hospital in Washington, DC. The university's medical students and residents will train and work at the health system's network of three hospitals.

Hospital in Texas to become first to receive primary heart attack center certification– The Joint Commission and American Heart Association will provide Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth with a primary heart attack center certification. The certification included on-site reviews of the hospital's processes and treatment of the most common type of heart attack. February is American Heart Month.

Ohio State University Comprehensive Care Center accepting leftover cancer drugs for low-income patients– The hospital will accept donations for two cancer drugs that may be left over after cancer patients have completed their course of treatment. Patients can donate the drugs to the hospital and pharmacists will ensure that they are safe for use. Patients with financial need will then be provided with the drugs.

University of Buffalo awarded \$22 million for five years to advance research– The university had received funding through the Clinical and Translation Science Award (CTSA) in 2015. The NIH award of \$22 million is a renewal of the CTSA program which supported innovative research and new treatments for diseases. The CTSA program increased the number of underrepresented minorities in clinical trials by 10 percentage points. Moving forward, the trials will be testing new treatments for childhood asthma, schizophrenia, and diabetes.

Hundreds of medical professionals from southern states sign open letter opposing numerous states' bill proposals regarding healthcare treatment for transgender minors– At least eight states have introduced various bills that would target physicians who are providing hormones, puberty-suppressing drugs, or transition surgery to adolescents. More than 200 medical professionals including mental health counselors, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, surgeons, and dentists have signed onto a letter that was coordinated by an advocacy group known as the Campaign for Southern Equality. Among other things, the letter states that such bills prohibit a medical provider from carrying out their duties and violating existing standards of care.



Medicaid Funding by State

Pew conducted a study to determine the amount of money states receive through Medicaid funding. The report found that Medicaid funding made up more than 66 percent of the federal funding for fourteen states. Below are the states where Medicaid makes up the largest and smallest share of federal funding:

Largest Share

1. New York (75%)
2. Oregon (73%)
3. Indiana (72%)
4. Kentucky (71%)
5. Louisiana (70%)

Smallest Share

1. Wyoming (15%)
2. South Dakota (38%)
3. North Dakota (46%)
4. Nebraska (47%)
5. Utah (49%)

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 find that brushing teeth may decrease chance of stroke– In their studies, researchers at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine determined that gum disease can affect the bloodstream and interfere with blood vessel functions through plaque buildup. The research found that people with gingivitis are twice as likely to have narrowing of brain arteries due to plaque buildup than those without gingivitis.

Hunger as a Health Issue

Refugees in Jordan and scientists experimenting with innovative ways to address hunger – In a recent experiment, refugees and scientists found a way to grow healthy, fresh food using mattress foam and water. The mattress foam can serve as soil for the “recycled gardens” in the desert environment.

Mental/ Behavioral Health

Popular social media app Snapchat launches mental health tool– The tool known as Here for You is a search tool that will allow users to look for various mental health resources for topics such as anxiety, depression, bullying, and suicide. The company plans to launch the tool in the next few weeks.