

California

Report by the California Health Care Foundation finds that Californians are skipping medical and dental care due to cost– According to the report, more than half of the California residents who were surveyed reported skipping care some time in the last year mainly due to cost. This represents a 44 percent increase from the prior year. Respondents selected ensuring access to mental health treatment for those who need it as the top priority (52 percent), followed by lowering the cost of prescription drugs (47%) and access to health insurance for all Californians (46 percent).

University of California San Francisco (UCSF) to launch online program for nurse practitioners to receive certification to provide mental health and psychiatric services– UCSF is one of three accredited state-funded programs to provide the certification. The UCSF nursing school will be launching the new online program in conjunction with UC-Davis and UC-Los Angeles. The program's graduates are expected to serve more than 350,000 patients in the next five years.

Other States

Six-month-old baby is the seventh patient to die from mold-related infection at Seattle Children's Hospital– Since 2001, seven patients have died from mold-related infections at the Seattle Children's Hospital. The parents of the six-month-old have joined a class-action lawsuit against the hospital.

Massachusetts' Harvard Medical School faculty pass resolution requesting the University to divest its endowment from the fossil fuel industry– The council voted 23-5 to ask Harvard Corporation to remove all direct investments from companies that make most of their profits from fossil fuels. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences also passed a similar resolution recently in their effort to combat climate change. The University's highest governing body, the Corporation, is the only decision-making body for such things.

Connecticut lawmakers introduce bill to cap insulin– Bipartisan state legislators introduced a bill to cap out-of-pocket costs of insulin at \$50 a month for individual prescriptions and \$100 a month for insulin and diabetic supplies such as test strips and glucose testing monitors. Colorado and Illinois recently passed caps on insulin costs.

Healthcare system in Louisiana creates tuition fund to grow workforce– Ochsner Health System created a \$10 million tuition fund to pay the tuition for 30 primary care physicians and psychiatrists who commit to working within the health system in the state for at least five years. The system is looking to create similar scholarship opportunities for employees who want to become licensed practical nurses or registered nurses.

US Court of Appeals for District of Columbia Circuit unanimously decides against work requirements for Arkansas– The court found that the work requirements lacked legal authorization and that administration officials did not properly assess the risk of people losing coverage. The passage of the work requirements later led to more than 18,000 people being dropped from Medicaid. Currently, more than 20 states are seeking to impose work requirements.

Minnesota nonprofit clinic rating agency adds ability to prevent osteoporosis onto clinic quality rating report card– Medical groups in the state were ranked based on the percentage of older women who were referred to osteoporosis management after breaking a bone. The data indicated that roughly one-third of women between 65 and 85 with broken bones were provided with osteoporosis management. The national rate is over 40 percent.

Oklahoma regains supply of lethal injections– The state halted executions by lethal injections since January 2015 after determining that one lethal injection mix had the wrong ingredient that led to a heart attack of an inmate 43 minutes after the administration of the injections. Moving forward, the state will resume the use of lethal injections with midazolam, vecuronium bromide, and potassium chloride. The state will also be using a new protocol that was developed by multiple counties in 2016, placing checks and safeguards to ensure that the injection ingredients are correct.

Parents move from various states to Idaho for "health freedom"– An investigation by an Idaho newspaper finds that dozens of families moved to the state of Idaho from states such as California and Washington because it was easier for their children to gain vaccine exemptions. States like Colorado and Utah also have such exemptions.

State Rankings by Mortality Rates

The Kaiser Family Foundation ranked states based on mortality rates for various kinds of illnesses. Below are the states with the highest and lowest death rates for HIV-Positive individuals.

Highest

- 1) Maryland (11.8 deaths per 100,000 people)
- 2) Florida (11.6 deaths per 100,000 people)
- 3) New York (10.6 deaths per 100,000 people)
- 4) Louisiana (10.3 deaths per 100,000 people)
- 5) Georgia (9.2 deaths per 100,000 people)

Lowest

- 1) North Dakota (0.5 deaths per 100,000 people)
- 2) Utah (0.9 deaths per 100,000 people)
- 3) South Dakota (1.1 deaths per 100,000 people)
- 4) Wyoming (1.3 deaths per 100,000 people)
- 5) Alaska (1.3 deaths per 100,000 people)

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

Dentist in North Carolina provides oral health services at an infectious disease center– The dentist and two hygienists set up their equipment and two portable dental chairs in the conference room of the center. Through the partnership between the providers, the oral health providers are able to see hundreds of immunocompromised patients at a time. Some of the patients have difficulties in accessing care due to transportation barriers or cost. Many are homeless and some have been turned away from oral health care because they have HIV.

Hunger as a Health Issue

Haiti ranks 111 out of 117 countries on the Global Hunger Index (GHI)– With more than 3.7 million people suffering from food insecurity, the country now ranks at 111 out of 117 countries on the GHI. The United Nations warned that if nothing is done, more than 1 million people will only have enough food to eat one meal every two days. The drop in the country's currency has made food importation more difficult. The country is unable to access international earmarked funds due to the lack of an authorized government.

Mental/ Behavioral Health

Michigan college programs begin to address mental health for athletes and non-athletes– According to the National College health Assessment, one in eight college students create a suicide plan, 66 percent feel overwhelmed by anxiety, and 45 percent feel extreme depression. The survey indicates that student-athletes are slightly less likely to feel depression and anxiety than their peers. Schools are beginning to address mental health through funding counseling services and creating innovative awareness/peer advocacy programs.

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