

Centering CSHP



Newsletter from the **Rutgers Center for State Health Policy** within the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research

What's New in Health Policy?

HEALTH POLICY FRONTIER: THE "UNWINDING" OF MEDICAID

As we move into the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are several policy changes that are coming for New Jersey. One such change is the redetermination of Medicaid eligibility, a process which was suspended during the height of the pandemic to avoid any widespread loss of coverage and access to care.

Also known as the "unwinding" of expanded Medicaid eligibility, this process will impact tens of thousands of New Jerseyans currently enrolled in NJ FamilyCare, NJ's Medicaid program. Redetermination processes risk substantially increasing the number of uninsured, due in part to the burdensome administrative requirements for renewing coverage.

NJ FamilyCare restarted Medicaid eligibility redeterminations in April for approximately 1/12th of their roughly 2.3 million enrollees. Each month of the unwinding year, they will be reaching out to another 1/12th of members to renew.

In [a commentary](#) for the Brookings Institution, CSHP Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs Emeritus Frank J. Thompson explains that it is the states, and in some cases, counties, that hold the major implementation cards.

According to Thompson, it is "[the states'] level of commitment to preserving health coverage during the unwinding and their administrative capacity to further that goal" which will markedly shape health insurance outcomes.

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[Watch this video update from the NJ Department of Human services.](#)

CENTER RECEIVES RESEARCH AWARD



Acenda Institute of Health Innovation

On April 25th, the Center received the Research Pioneer Award from the [Acenda Institute of Health Innovation](#) (AIHI). Each year, the AIHI honors individuals and organizations who are paving the way for the future of behavioral health care delivery through research and policy action.

The Center was recognized for our commitment to producing quality, impactful research and our ability to form lasting partnerships with colleagues in academia, state government, and within the communities we study. Our director, Joel Cantor, accepted the award on our behalf and his remarks are now available on the [AIHI YouTube page](#).

NGUYEN EXPLORES LICENSURE COMPACTS



Ann Nguyen, Ph.D.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, at least 45 states waived or modified licensure rules to allow healthcare practitioners to work across state lines.

In a recent Milbank Memorial Fund [blog post](#), CSHP Assistant Research Professor Ann Nguyen and colleague Magda Schaler-Haynes, Professor at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and former Senior Advisor for the

Office of the NJ Attorney General’s Division of Consumer Affairs, explore the potential for permanent licensure compacts to meaningfully address shortfalls in the healthcare workforce and improve access to care for patients, regardless of where they live.

Dr. Nguyen also spoke with [New Jersey 101.5 Radio](#) about the impact of pandemic-era licensure reciprocity on access to mental health care. You can view her licensure research on the [CSHP website](#).

NEW FACES AT CSHP



Christina Kratzman, M.I., M.A.
Information Management Specialist



Joshua Lue, M.P.H.
Data Analyst



John S. Palatucci, Ph.D, M.P.A.
Medicaid Scholar

MEDICAID EXPANSIONS ADDRESS DISPARITIES

A [new study](#) co-authored by CSHP Associate Research Professor Sujoy Chakravarty found that expanding Medicaid-benefit eligibility to cover all people with income up to 138 percent of the federal poverty line reduced Black-white disparities in preventable hospitalizations and emergency department (ED) visits.

percent or more in states that expanded eligibility.

“The decline in disparities indicates that increased coverage through Medicaid expansion was an effective tool for providing valuable care to underserved communities,” Chakravarty told [Rutgers Today](#).

Chakravarty and colleague Asako S. Moriya from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality analyzed state-level inpatient and ED data from 2011 to 2018, finding that such disparities fell 10

The full study is available in *Health Affairs*, and the coauthors provide additional insights in a [guest essay](#) written for the *Health Affairs Today* newsletter.



Sujoy Chakravarty, Ph.D.



Inside iPHD

Funding provided by the New Jersey Department of Health

MEET THE CYCLE I AWARDEES

In March 2023, the [New Jersey Integrated Population Health Data Project](#) (iPHD) announced the first cohort of pilot and data recipients from its inaugural application cycle!

Four research teams from across New Jersey institutions, including two from Rutgers, will use their access to linked health and administrative data to study some of the most challenging and persistent population health problems confronting the state today.

Click on each awardee below to learn more about their project.



[Stephen Crystal, Ph.D.](#)
[Rutgers Center for Health Services Research](#)



[Cheryl McFarland, Ph.D.](#)
[Central Jersey Family Health Consortium](#)



[Morgan Peltier, Ph.D.](#)
[Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine](#)



[Slawa Rokicki, Ph.D. & Mark McGovern, Ph.D.](#)
[Rutgers School of Public Health](#)

WATCH: iPHD BROWN BAG SEMINAR

On March 16, 2023, the Center took part in the Institute for Health's virtual Brown Bag series. The presentation features remarks from Center Director Joel Cantor and Associate Director of Data & Analytics Jose Nova and is now available to view on the Center's [YouTube page](#).

Cantor and Nova highlighted the achievements of the first year of the iPHD, including opportunities to apply for data in 2023 and a preview of the plans for the project going forward.



[Watch the full webinar on our YouTube page!](#)

Health Study Corner

Funding provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

NJ HEALTH STUDY MEDIA EXPERIMENT

The [New Jersey Population Health Cohort Study](#) (*NJHealth Study*) began an 8-week media advertisement campaign encouraging people to learn more about the *NJHealth Study* by calling, emailing, or visiting the study's website.

The goal of this campaign, which is being delivered to a randomly selected set of areas in New Jersey targeted for recruitment, is to identify whether intensive multi-media outreach boosts recruitment of study participants.

Outreach activities include billboards at train stations, posters on hand sanitizer kiosks at grocery stores and pharmacies, online banner advertising on various websites

as well as social media and e-newsletter advertising.

Additional targeted messages about the study are being delivered through multiple media outlets, including NJ Advance Media, Intersection, Terraboost, TapInto.net, and JCityTimes.com.

Early returns suggest that Facebook advertising may be helpful in generating leads. To learn more about the *NJHealth Study* or to get involved, please visit the project's website: [Cohort.Rutgers.Edu](#).



WHAT IS THE NJ HEALTH STUDY?

Launched in 2022, the [New Jersey Population Health Cohort Study](#) (*NJHealth Study*) aims to gather practical, actionable information for improving population health, well-being, and health equity in NJ and beyond.

Joel C. Cantor, ScD, Director and Distinguished Professor at the Center for State Health Policy, is leading the *NJHealth Study* alongside a multi-disciplinary team of faculty co-investigators and senior staff.

Up to 10,000 participants from across New Jersey will take part in the study, with a focus on recruiting residents from historically disadvantaged groups, multi-generational families, and immigrant groups.

To learn more about the study and to get involved, visit [Cohort.Rutgers.Edu](#) and stay tuned for additional updates in the next issue of *Centering CSHP!*

HEALTH DATA FOR ACTION (HD4A)

Through the 2023 Health Data for Action (HD4A) [Call for Proposals](#), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will make data from 16 data sets available to successful applicants looking to conduct important health policy-related research. Among the data sets available are those maintained by the [New Jersey Integrated Population Health Data \(iPHD\) Project](#). To learn more about the program, the funding opportunity, and the grantmaking process, register for the upcoming [applicant webinar](#) on **Tuesday, July 18th from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET.**

WE'RE HIRING!

Our team at Rutgers Center for State Health Policy is growing! We encourage you to visit our website to learn more about employment opportunities here at CSHP.

Featured Opportunities:

[Tenure-Track Faculty in Population Health](#)

[Research Project Manager](#)

ALL CSHP JOBS

AROUND THE INSTITUTE

The latest news from the Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research is [available online](#).

You can view the latest issue of the Institute's quarterly newsletter, *IFH Insights*, by clicking the image below.

IFH INSIGHTS

Quarterly News from Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research

STAY TUNED...

At the Center, we like to keep busy. Here is a glimpse of what we are working on:



Post-Pandemic Policy Perspective Series
Summer 2023



Launching New CSHP Website
Spring 2024



Celebrating CSHP's 25th Anniversary
Fall 2024

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