



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)**  
***Office of Behavioral Health, Disability, and Aging Policy (BHDAP)***

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***Who we are:*** ASPE is the principal advisor to the Secretary of HHS on policy development, including major activities in policy coordination, legislative development, policy research, program evaluation, and economic analysis. Within ASPE, BHDAP focuses on policies and programs that support the independence, productivity, health and well-being of people with disabilities, people with behavioral health conditions, and older adults, including those with long-term care needs. ***Please share with interested colleagues and/or subscribe below to receive these and other updates from BHDAP.***

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**The Americans with Disabilities Act: 31 Years Later**  
by Deputy Assistant Secretary Dr. Tisamarie Sherry

In honor of the 31st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), BHDAP is delighted to share this special edition of our newsletter highlighting our research on policies and programs that support the independence, productivity, health and well-being, and long-term care needs of people with disabilities,

The three decades since the ADA have brought tremendous progress in meeting the needs of people with disabilities. Recent research by BHDAP together with ASPE's Office of Health Policy, for example, finds gains in insurance coverage among adults with disabilities since 2010. This same study, however, finds that adults with disabilities are still less likely to have continuous insurance coverage than adults without disabilities, illustrating that more work must be done to fulfill the ADA's promise.

In BHDAP, we examine disability across the life course from a number of perspectives. Disability data infrastructure is essential to tracking prevalence, policy implications, and -- as we recently learned in our COVID-19 Data on Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities project -- the impact of public health emergencies on vulnerable populations. We recognize the essential role that family caregivers and direct care providers play in assisting people with disabilities and helping to ensure they can maximize their functioning in the setting of their choice. When additional assistance is needed, the Medicaid program provides the vast majority of funding for long-term services and supports -- both in institutional and home- and community-based settings. We closely follow federal and state Medicaid policies, including expansion of models of self-direction, and track the impact of these policies on beneficiaries. BHDAP's research aims to support people with disabilities to live in the least restrictive environment that meets their needs. However, it is also important to track the policies, availability, and quality of residential settings that some people need to use. For example, our State Residential Treatment for Behavioral Health Conditions: Regulation and Policy compendium describes regulatory provisions and Medicaid policy for residential treatment in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Similarly, housing plays an important

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role in helping people stay in the community so a number of our publications examine this crucial resource. Finally, we examine policies that facilitate early outreach to populations at risk of developing disabilities before they need long-term services and supports.

At the bottom of this email, you'll find a list of key BHDAP publications from the last decade which give you a sense of our approach to disability. This is by no means an exhaustive list and is only a taste of our work on these topics. I encourage you to read these pieces, peruse the new ASPE website, and reach out to us if you have any questions or ideas for future BHDAP work.

The work to realize the goals of the ADA is far from done. Through research that advances policies to support people with disabilities, BHDAP is committed to supporting the full inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in society.

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### **Health Insurance Coverage Among Working-Age Adults with Disabilities: 2010-2018**

*(posted August 2, 2021)*

[Read Brief](#)

For working-age adults with disabilities, consistent access to health insurance may be critical to continuity of care and good health outcomes. We tracked changes in health insurance coverage for this population from 2010-2018 using the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and calculated the proportion of this population that would be eligible for zero dollar premiums in 2021 and 2022 through the American Rescue Plan. While gains in health insurance coverage for adults with disabilities were made over this time period, having coverage for only part of the year remained 50% more common among adults with disabilities. These findings have important implications for work to expand health insurance coverage to this population.

### **State Residential Treatment for Behavioral Health Conditions: Regulation and Policy**

*(posted August 2, 2021)*

[Read Report](#)

Residential treatment facilities are a key component of states' behavioral health systems. They form part of the spectrum of treatment for both mental and substance use disorders (M/SUDs). This Compendium describes regulatory provisions and Medicaid policy for residential treatment in all 50 states and the District of Columbia (hereafter states) and contains links to detailed summaries of state licensure and oversight standards and, separately, state Medicaid requirements.

### **COVID-19 Data on Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

*(posted July 23, 2021)*

[Read Report](#)

[Read Brief](#)

Despite high risk of COVID-19 infection and mortality among individuals with ID/DD, there is no standardized national framework to facilitate the collection and sharing of COVID-related

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data for this population. An increased understanding of state collection and reporting of COVID-19 data; COVID-19 infection prevention strategies; and COVID-19 vaccine prioritization for the ID/DD population at the state level may help inform future policies, programs, and practices that aim to reduce the risk of infection and mitigate adverse effects of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases for the population.

**Impact of COVID-19 on Home Care** *(posted June 8, 2021)*

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected home care agencies--including home health agencies--and their staff in several important ways. In these reports, we highlight the challenges faced by home care (including home health) agencies due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the policies and practices put into place by the Federal Government, state governments, and home care agencies themselves to mitigate these challenges through a 50-state scan and interviews with stakeholders.

**COVID-19 Intensifies Home Care Workforce Challenges**

[Read Report](#)

**COVID-19 Intensifies Home Care Workforce Challenges: Agency Perspectives**

[Read Brief](#)

**COVID-19 Intensifies Home Care Workforce Challenges: Policy Perspectives**

[Read Brief](#)

**State and Community Efforts to Address Stimulant Use** *(posted May 24, 2021)*

[Read Report](#)

As the rate of stimulant-involved overdose deaths has risen in recent years, policymakers have expressed increasing interest in public health interventions to support individuals with stimulant use disorder and prevent overdose deaths. This study provides a range of efforts to address stimulant-related concerns nationwide. We found a variety of similarities across efforts, such as public health/public safety and other cross-sector partnerships and a focus on recovery support services, as well as differences, such as the treatment models being emphasized and implemented.

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**KEY BHDAP DISABILITY-RELATED PUBLICATIONS: 2011 - 2021**

- Disability and Care Needs of Older Americans: An Analysis of the 2011 National Health and Aging Trends Study (April 2014) [Read Report](#)
  - Children with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs in NCQA-Recognized Patient-Centered Medical Homes: Health Care Utilization, Provider Perspectives and Parental Expectations Executive Summary (January 2014) [Read Report](#)
  - Measuring the Need for Long-Term Services and Supports (July 2015) [Read Brief](#)
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- Disability Data in National Surveys (August 2011) [Read Report](#)
  - Identifying Medicare Beneficiaries with Disabilities: Improving on Claims-Based Algorithms (January 2014) [Read Report](#)
  - Community-Dwelling Older Adults with Dementia and Their Caregivers: Key Indicators from the National Health and Aging Trends Study (May 2017) [Read Chartbook](#)
  - Survey for Caregivers Supporting a Person with a Disability Outside of the Disability Support Service System (September 2015) [Read Report](#)
  - The Affordable Care Act and Caregivers (July 2015). [Read Brief](#)
  - Understanding Direct Care Workers: A Snapshot of Two of America's Most Important Jobs--Certified Nursing Assistants and Home Health Aides (March 2011) [Read Report](#)
  - The Use of 1915(i) Medicaid Plan Option for Individuals with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders (November 2016) [Read Report](#)
  - Impacts of Waiting Periods for Home and Community-Based Services on Consumers and Medicaid Long-Term Care Costs in Iowa (January 2014) [Read Report](#)
  - Participant-Directed Services in Managed Long-Term Services and Supports Programs: A Five State Comparison (August 2013) [Read Report](#)
  - Feasibility of Expanding Self-Directed Services to People with Serious Mental Illness (May 2012) [Read Report](#)
  - Understanding the Characteristics of Older Adults in Different Residential Settings: Data Sources and Trends (October 2020) [Read Report](#)
  - Non-Elderly Disabled Category 2 Housing Choice Voucher Program: An Implementation and Impact Analysis (January 2014) [Read Report](#)
  - Health Conditions Among Individuals With a History of Homelessness (February 2021) [Read Brief](#)
  - Projections of Risk of Needing Long-Term Services and Supports at Ages 65 and Older (May 2020) [Read Report](#)
  - How the Affordable Care Act Can Support Employment for People with Mental Illness (May 2014) [Read Report](#)
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