



**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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To our partners in research and policy analysis:

I am delighted to share with you BHDAP's end of year newsletter! As you will see below, in recent months our team has published the [HHS Roadmap for Behavioral Health Integration](#), the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) 2021 [Evaluation Report](#) and annual [Report to Congress](#), research on changes in the opioid use disorder treatment landscape following the 2021 HHS [Buprenorphine Practice Guidelines](#), as well as studies on [high-risk discharges](#) and [staffing in nursing homes](#), and [financing of long-term services and supports](#). Our work on behavioral health integration was highlighted in [Making Behavioral Health Work](#), a recent event hosted by the Brookings Institution that also featured Secretary Becerra and Deputy Secretary Palm, and our evaluation of the 2021 HHS Buprenorphine Practice Guidelines was highlighted as part of the [one-year anniversary](#) of HHS's Overdose Prevention Strategy.

We thank you for your partnership and interest in our work!

Dr. Tisamarie Sherry, Deputy Assistant Secretary

***Please share with interested colleagues and/or subscribe below to receive these and other updates from BHDAP.***

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## **RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

**HHS Roadmap for Behavioral Health Integration** (*posted September 16, 2022*)

[Read Brief](#)

This Brief introduces the HHS Roadmap for Behavioral Health Integration, which advances the President's Strategy to Address our National Mental Health Crisis. It provides a general overview of the approach HHS is taking to drive toward integrated care within the three pillars of the President's Strategy and highlights selected programs and policy actions that will get us there. You can also read the related [Health Affairs Forefront](#) piece co-authored by HHS leaders describing their commitment to this framework, and watch Secretary Becerra and Deputy Secretary Palm discuss this work at the Brookings Institution [[event link](#)].

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## **Long-Term Services and Supports for Older Americans: Risks and Financing, 2022**

*(posted September 28, 2022)*

[Read Brief](#)

This Brief presents information about the risk of needing care and associated costs, to provide content for policymakers and others considering long-term care financing proposals. It revises a brief that was written in October 2020.

## **High Risk of Discharge from Nursing Facilities** *(posted September 29, 2022)*

[Read Brief](#); [Read Report](#)

This research identifies resident characteristics related to increased risk of live discharges and how these relationships vary across time, states, and facility types. This study also presents findings on the relationship between live discharges of residents with risk factors and post-discharge outcomes.

## **Nursing Home Staffing and the COVID-19 Pandemic** *(posted October 6, 2022)*

[Landing Page](#)

The nursing home workforce, which for decades has experienced chronic shortages, was profoundly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of nursing home residents and the number of CNAs declined dramatically, there were slight increases in staffing due to increased workload, existing staffing disparities were exacerbated, and there was a sizable increase in use of contract staff.

### **Nursing Home Nurse Staff Hours Declined Notably during the COVID-19 Pandemic, with CNAs Experiencing the Largest Decreases Issue Brief**

[Read Brief](#)

### **Nursing Home Staffing Disparities were Exacerbated during the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020 Research Brief**

[Read Brief](#)

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Increased Nursing Homes' Reliance on Contract Staff to Address Staff Shortages in 2020 Issue Brief**

[Read Brief](#)

## **Racial and Ethnic Differences in Children's Mental Health Services in Medicaid Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic Issue Brief** *(posted November 9, 2022)*

[Read Report](#)

Using a national Medicaid claims database, the report shows significant racial and ethnic disparities in mental health service use among children during the COVID-19 pandemic. The report also shows that while telehealth services for mental health treatment increased during the pandemic, it was not sufficient to make-up for the overall decline in mental health service use, especially among children from minority background.

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## **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Demonstration Program**

*(posted November 30, 2022)*

[Landing Page](#) (includes additional CCBHC reports)

Per Section 223(d)(7)(A) of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) of 2014 (Public Law 113-93), the HHS Secretary must submit to Congress an annual report on the use of funds provided under all demonstration programs conducted under this subsection, not later than one year after the date on which the first state is selected for a demonstration program under this subsection, and annually thereafter. Each report shall include assessments of: (1) access to community-based mental health services; (2) the quality and scope of services provided by Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs); and (3) the impact of the demonstration programs on the federal and state costs of a full range of mental health services. This fifth report to Congress builds on interim evaluation reports, which provide detailed information on implementation progress and the costs and quality of care. The implementation report summarizes findings from ASPE's evaluation of the CCBHC demonstration program.

### **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Demonstration Program: Report to Congress, 2021**

[Read Report](#)

### **Implementation and Impacts of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Demonstration: Findings from the National Evaluation**

[Read Report](#)

### **Early Impacts of the 2021 HHS Buprenorphine Practice Guidelines on Waivered Clinicians and People Receiving Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder** *(posted December 2, 2022)*

[Read Report](#)

In April 2021, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued revised Practice Guidelines for the Administration of Buprenorphine for Treating Opioid Use Disorder (Practice Guideline). The Practice Guideline removed two longstanding requirements for obtaining a Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) of 2000 waiver to treat up to 30 patients with buprenorphine for opioid use disorder (OUD): the requirement for specific training, and the need for otherwise eligible clinicians to certify their ability to provide or refer for counseling or other ancillary services. This research report examines changes in clinician waiver uptake and the number of unique patients receiving buprenorphine for OUD from retail pharmacies, in the early months after the Practice Guideline took effect (from June to December 2021). This research was also highlighted as part of the [one-year anniversary](#) of HHS's Overdose Prevention Strategy.

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## Ownership of Skilled Nursing Facilities: An Analysis of Newly-Released Federal Data Breadcrumb *(posted December 15, 2022)*

### [Read Brief](#)

To enhance transparency in health care markets, in September 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) publicly released comprehensive data on the ownership of all U.S. skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) that are enrolled in Medicare. This report provides an overview of the available data, a methodology for calculating the ownership shares by individuals vs. organizations, and several preliminary analyses to showcase the data, including information on ownership patterns and market concentration. We find that individuals directly or indirectly own half of the ownership shares of SNFs, and organizations own the other half. The largest ten chains (representing less than 2% of all chains) own over 10% of all SNFs, while the remaining 597 chains own 55.6% of SNFs, and a third of SNFs (33.8%) are independent. Each of the top ten chains operates in at least half a dozen states.

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## BHDAP IN ACTION

- BHDAP researchers were published in the Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment: [National Trends in Buprenorphine Prescribing Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).
- BHDAP researchers were published in Pediatrics, the Journal for the American Academy of Pediatrics: [Psychotropic Medication Utilization Among Children Diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder](#).
- BHDAP researchers were published in Health Economics: [Recreational Marijuana Laws and the Misuse of Prescription Opioids: Evidence from the National Survey of Drug Use and Health Microdata](#).
- BHDAP researchers were published in Psychiatric Services: [Telepsychiatry Use Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic Among Children Enrolled in Medicaid](#).
- BHDAP research was highlighted in the [one-year anniversary](#) of HHS's Overdose Prevention Strategy.
- The HHS Roadmap for Behavioral Health Integration was highlighted in [Making Behavioral Health Work](#), a recent event hosted by the Brookings Institution that also featured Secretary Becerra and Deputy Secretary Palm.

If you cannot get access to a journal article, please feel free to request it by email [ASPE-BHDAP@hhs.gov](mailto:ASPE-BHDAP@hhs.gov).

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**Past Newsletters** are available at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/bhdap-newsletters>.

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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.

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