



Top Headlines

- State Strategies that Help Older, Rural Adults Age in Place
- Many Factors Contribute to Rising Children's Uninsured Rates
- Transparency Laws Illuminate Rx Drugs' Impact on Premium Prices

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Toolkit: State Strategies to Help Older, Rural Adults Age in Place

This toolkit highlights state initiatives that help older adults living in rural areas to age in place. These strategies increase services to help people remain in their homes, expand and professionalize the caregiver workforce, improve transportation access, and make health care delivery reforms within Medicaid programs. Explore this robust resource.



State Officials: Multiple Factors Contribute to Children's Rising Uninsured Rates

New US Census Bureau data shows a rising uninsured rate, increasing from 7.9 percent in 2017 to 8.5 percent in 2018, and a disturbing, second-year increase in uninsured children. Many state officials have been wondering why children's enrollment in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs is declining and fears are now confirmed that they are not all transitioning to private coverage. This blog examines multiple factors – including the “good” economy, enrollment impediments, and new, restrictive immigration policies – that could be contributing to the lower uptake in children's insurance coverage.



New State Transparency Law Illuminates Drugs' Impact on Premium Prices

As health plans prepare to submit rate filings, a 2019 report from Oregon's new Prescription Drug Price Transparency Program illuminates just how much prescription drug prices impact insurance premium costs. States such as Oregon are using transparency laws to lay the foundation for targeted, effective action to lower drug prices. This blog explores early findings from Oregon's transparency legislation implementation.



#NASHCONF19 Insight: If US Hospitals Were a Country, They Would Emit More Greenhouse Gases than France

#NASHCONF19 keynote speaker and Health Care without Harm founder Gary Cohen called on policymakers to make hospitals “anchors for resilient communities” by reducing their environmental impact. Hospitals are responsible for 8 percent of US greenhouse gas emissions and are among the top users of water and chemical agents in their communities. The average hospital generates 26 pounds of waste per occupied bed daily, but few have purchasing policies that take the environment into consideration. Cohen's prescription for hospitals, highlighted below, invites state officials to carefully consider how they can use policy levers like reimbursement, licensing, and certificates of need to help hospitals reduce their environmental impact.



Former RI Marketplace Director Takes New Post in Pennsylvania

Zach Sherman, former director of Rhode Island's insurance marketplace, will be the new head of Pennsylvania's recently established state-based marketplace (SBM). Pennsylvania created a state-managed marketplace so it could exercise more control over its administration and consumer outreach. Previously, Pennsylvania used the federally facilitated marketplace. SBMs, which now number 13 nationwide including Rhode Island, have generally been more successful in achieving higher enrollment, more insurance plan selections, and lower premium prices. Rhode Island is now seeking a new director for its marketplace.

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