News & Events

The Peterson Center on Healthcare is dedicated to making the vision of better healthcare for lower cost a reality. Browse news from the Center, and read about our upcoming events.

News

Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

COVID-19 Continues to Be a Leading Cause of Death in the U.S. in June 2021

Though no longer the number one leading cause of death, COVID-19 remains in the top ten leading causes of death, even in June 2021. Looking at the most recent data on deaths from COVID-19 and other causes, we estimate that COVID-19 is currently the number 7 leading cause of death in the U.S.

Jul 1, 2021[13]
Source: Axios

Why Drug Price Negotiation Has Staying Power

Prescription drugs—which represent just 10% of national health spending—have remained a persistent issue on Capitol Hill for a reason. Retail drug spending represents 18% of health benefit costs for large employers, even after taking rebates from drug manufacturers into account.

Jun 25, 2021[14]
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

Ground Ambulance Rides and Potential for Surprise Billing

This brief describes ambulance use, ownership type, the share of ground ambulance rides with a potential for surprise bills, and state or local policies aimed at reducing surprise bills for ground ambulances.

Jun 24, 2021[15]
Source: The Hill

Shrinking Number of Unvaccinated People Eager to Get Coronavirus Jab: Poll

A shrinking population of unvaccinated people say they’re eager to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible, according to a Kaiser Family Foundation poll released Friday.

May 28, 2021[16]
Source: Health Affairs

Supporting States in Setting Health Care Cost Growth Targets to Improve Affordability

With a two-year, $2.7 million grant from the Peterson Center on Healthcare, which was established by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, the Milbank Memorial Fund is supporting statewide health care cost growth target initiatives in five states: Connecticut, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, and Washington.

May 27, 2021[17]
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

How Lowering the Medicare Eligibility Age Might Affect Employer-Sponsored Insurance Costs
In this brief, we explore the effect that moving older adults onto Medicare might have on employer-sponsored insurance costs. To do so, we evaluate spending by age in large employer plans using IBM MarketScan Commercial Claims and Encounters Database.

Apr 27, 2021 [18]
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

**Early Results from Federal Price Transparency Rule Show Difficulty in Estimating the Cost of Care**

In this brief, we focus on the recently effective hospital price transparency rule to assess hospital compliance and examine how payer-negotiated rates vary.

Apr 9, 2021 [19]
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

**COVID-19 Pandemic-Related Excess Mortality and Potential Years of Life Lost in the U.S. and Peer Countries**

In this brief, we review excess death rates in the U.S. and peer countries by age groups to examine how the pandemic has affected excess mortality rate among younger people.

Apr 7, 2021 [20]
Source: Milbank Memorial Fund

**Seeking Affordability and Transparency, Five States Join the Peterson-Milbank Program for Sustainable Health Care Costs**

Today we are pleased to announce that Connecticut, Oregon, Nevada, New Jersey, and Washington have been selected for participation in the Peterson-Milbank Program for Sustainable Health Care Costs.

Mar 9, 2021 [21]
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

**COVID-19 Is the Number One Cause of Death in the U.S. in Early 2021**

As of January 26, an average of more than 3,000 people per day died of COVID-19 in the U.S. during the first month of 2021. It’s now the leading cause of death, ahead of heart disease and cancer.

Feb 22, 2021 [22]
Source: Axios

**Knowing Someone Who’s Been Vaccinated Helps Reduce Hesitancy**

Knowing someone who has been vaccinated, and seeing that the vaccine does not produce any significant adverse effects, is emerging as the leading reason people are willing to get vaccinated themselves. This means vaccine hesitancy should diminish naturally as more people are vaccinated.

Feb 10, 2021 [23]
Source: The Wall Street Journal

**What to Do When There’s a COVID-19 Vaccine Glut**

The Food and Drug Administration announced new steps last week to help ensure that COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines stay ahead of new, potentially more transmissible and virulent, variants, whose emergence makes widespread vaccination even more urgent.

Feb 7, 2021 [24]
Source: Patient Engagement HIT

**Key Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccine Public Health Messaging**

COVID-19 vaccine public health messaging should focus more on the shot’s effectiveness at preventing the illness and promise to bring back normal life and less so on the rare allergic reactions it might elicit, according to a new report from the Kaiser Family Foundation.
Rhode Island’s Cost Trends Project: A Case Study on State Cost Growth Targets

This Peterson-Milbank Memorial Fund Program for Sustainable Health Care Costs case study explores how Rhode Island set and implemented its healthcare cost growth target.

How Have Health Spending and Utilization Changed During the Coronavirus Pandemic?

In this chart collection, we summarize what we know so far about how health costs and utilization have changed during the pandemic.

How Costly Are Common Health Services in the United States?

This chart collection explores the average cost of several common healthcare services in the U.S., showing the average allowed amounts large employer health plans agree to pay for in-network and out-of-network care.

Peterson Center on Healthcare Announces New Initiative to Support States to Monitor and Control Healthcare Spending

The Peterson Center on Healthcare announced a new $2.7 million grant to the Milbank Memorial Fund to support efforts to set and track healthcare spending targets at the state level.

How Does the Quality of the U.S. Healthcare System Compare to Other Countries?

This chart collection provides a baseline of how the U.S. already compared to similarly large and wealthy countries prior to the onset of the coronavirus pandemic—exploring a number of different metrics used to look at health outcomes, quality of care and access to services.

How Private Insurers Are Using Telehealth to Respond to the Pandemic

In this brief, we discuss how private insurance plans have taken a variety of steps to expand telemedicine uptake and access during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Science Alone Cannot Beat the Pandemic. We Also Need Outreach About a COVID-19 Vaccine

Americans anxiously await two key benefits that a Covid-19 vaccine will deliver: freedom from fear and a return to normal.

COVID-19 Repercussions May Outweigh Recent Gains in U.S. Health System Performance

In this brief, we look at the bigger picture of what the latest data convey about how well the U.S. health system is performing, and how the coronavirus pandemic may affect key indicators.
COVID-19 Test Prices and Payment Policy

Our analysis of what large hospitals nationwide charge for out-of-network COVID-19 tests show a wide range of publicly posted prices—from $20 to $850 for a single test.

What Impact Has the Coronavirus Pandemic Had on Healthcare Employment?

This chart collection examines where changes in healthcare employment have been concentrated and what these changes might tell us about short-term health spending.

How Have Healthcare Utilization and Spending Changed So Far During the Coronavirus Pandemic?

In this chart collection, we summarize what we know so far about how health costs and utilization have changed during the pandemic.

Urban and Rural Differences in Coronavirus Pandemic Preparedness

The novel coronavirus was slower to spread to rural areas in the U.S., but that appears to be changing, with new outbreaks becoming evident in less densely populated parts of the country. In this brief, we analyze variation in hospital bed capacity by region in the U.S.

How Health Costs Might Change With COVID-19

As the coronavirus spreads rapidly across the United States, private health insurers and government health programs could potentially face higher healthcare costs.

Ten Weeks to Crush the Curve

If we take these six steps to mobilize and organize the nation, we can defeat Covid-19 by early June.

National Coronavirus Response: A Road Map to Reopening

This report provides a road map for navigating through the current COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

How Prepared Is the U.S. to Respond to COVID-19 Relative to Other Countries?

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has already overwhelmed the health systems of several countries and is projected to overburden the U.S. health system.
A Proposal to Cap Provider Prices and Price Growth in the Commercial Health-Care Market

In this proposal, Michael Chernew of Harvard Medical School, Leemore Dafny of Harvard Business School and Maximilian Pany of Harvard University discuss how price regulations could be used to constrain commercial provider prices in an efficient manner.

Mar 10, 2020 [41]
Source: Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation

New Study: Low Back and Neck Pain Tops U.S. Health Spending

A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that Americans in 2016 spent an estimated $380 billion on low back and neck pain, as well as on joint and limb pain, and other musculoskeletal disorders—the highest expenditure of any health condition.

Mar 3, 2020 [42]
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

An Examination of Surprise Medical Bills and Proposals to Protect Consumers from Them

This analysis uses claims data from large employer plans to estimate the incidence of out-of-network charges associated with hospital stays and emergency visits that could result in a surprise bill.

Feb 10, 2020 [43]
Source: Civica Rx

Blue Cross and Blue Shield Companies Join Forces with Civica Rx to Lower Costs of Select High-Cost Generic Medications

18 BCBS companies to provide $55 million to help create a Civica subsidiary with the goal of bringing lower-cost, generic medications to individuals and families.

Jan 23, 2020 [44]

Peterson Center on Healthcare Supports More Effective and Efficient Implementation of Health Innovations

The Peterson Center on Healthcare has announced a new initiative with Ariadne Labs to research factors that drive adoption of healthcare innovations.

Nov 18, 2019 [45]
Source: Catalyst for Payment Reform

How Can Data Analytics Support High-Value Care?

A new report from Catalyst for Payment Reform highlights key considerations for using data and analytics to support high-value healthcare purchasing strategies.

Nov 5, 2019 [46]

Peterson Center on Healthcare Expands Partnership with Rhode Island and Brown University on Data-Driven Healthcare Transparency

The innovative project builds on the success of state-level collaboration aimed at curbing rising healthcare costs and improving delivery.

Oct 21, 2019 [47]
Source: Peterson-Kaiser Health System Tracker

Employer Strategies to Reduce Health Costs and Improve Quality Through Network Configuration

This analysis includes an overview of strategies employers are implementing and offers a deeper understanding of the
successes, barriers and trade-offs firms have experienced in their network decision-making.

Sep 25, 2019
Source: Health Quality Partners

**Health Quality Partners Accelerates Adoption of High-Performance Preventive Care**

Long-term randomized controlled studies show Health Quality Partners’ model of preventive care improves outcomes at lower costs for high-risk Medicare patients.

Sep 5, 2019
Source: Journal of the American Geriatrics Society

**Differentiating Among High Need Patients Helps Clarify Needs and Outcomes**

A study published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society identifies five types of high-need patients—a first step to better understanding differences in how Medicare patients use healthcare and their outcomes.

Aug 27, 2019
Source: Journal of General Internal Medicine

**Accountable Care Organizations Increasingly Emphasize Preventive Care**

Research in the Journal of General Internal Medicine explores the connection between high-performing Medicare ACOs and comprehensive preventive care.

Aug 20, 2019
Source: Peterson-Kaiser Health System Tracker

**How Does Prescription Drug Spending and Use Compare Across Large Employer Plans, Medicare Part D, and Medicaid?**

Rising drug prices affect patients’ out-of-pocket costs as well as the budgets of private and public payers. This analysis compares prescription drug spending and use in large private employer plans, Medicare Part D, and Medicaid.

May 20, 2019
Source: Peterson-Kaiser Health System Tracker

**U.S. Health System Is Performing Better, Though Still Lagging Behind Other Countries**

To monitor the performance of the U.S. health system over time and in relation to other countries, our newly expanded Health System Dashboard includes a number of indicators across four domains: health spending, quality of care, access and affordability, and health and wellbeing.

Mar 29, 2019


Funded by the Peterson Center on Healthcare, this unique collaboration serves as a model for data-driven healthcare cost trend analysis.

Feb 6, 2019

**Peterson Center on Healthcare Announces New Initiative to Better Align Treatment with Patient Goals**

The partnership with Northwestern University will foster more effective, transparent, and informed decision-making by patients, families, and care teams.

Jan 30, 2019

**How ACOs Are Caring for People with Complex Needs**

Dartmouth researchers analyzed survey results to better understand the evidence-based approaches ACOs use to manage
care for people with complex needs.

Jan 14, 2019 [56]
Source: Peterson-Kaiser Health System Tracker

A Generation of Healthcare in the United States: Has Value Improved in the Last 25 Years?

New analysis from the Peterson-Kaiser Health System Tracker shows that while many U.S. health outcomes have improved over the last 25 years, the share of GDP devoted to health increased by 40 percent, and the U.S. still lags behind other countries in many key measures.

Dec 6, 2018 [57]
Source: Better Care Playbook

Implementing the ‘How’ That Is Right for You

In honor of the second anniversary of the Better Care Playbook's launch, Jay Want, MD, reflects on the philosophy behind the Playbook and shares his vision for its use.

Dec 4, 2018 [58]

Three National Foundations Commit $30 Million to Civica Rx, a Groundbreaking Effort to Address Shortages and High Prices of Life-Saving Medications

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation, Peterson Center on Healthcare and Gary and Mary West Foundation each commit $10 million to a new, not-for-profit generic drug company.

Sep 6, 2018 [59]

Peterson Center on Healthcare Partners with Rhode Island and Brown University on Innovative Healthcare Data Transparency Initiative

The State of Rhode Island and Brown University will study healthcare cost trends in order to improve how care is delivered throughout the state.

Aug 23, 2018 [60]

Peterson Center on Healthcare Announces New Partnership to Accelerate Adoption of Proven Care Model for High-Need Patients

Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers and Health Quality Partners will work to accelerate adoption of a model that has been shown to improve care and lower costs among chronically ill, older adults.

Aug 20, 2018 [61]
Source: Peterson-Kaiser Health System Tracker

An Analysis of Out-of-Network Claims in Large Employer Health Plans

This analysis assesses the extent to which patients receive services from an out-of-network provider, putting them at risk for potentially high out-of-pocket costs.

Aug 13, 2018 [62]
Source: Peterson-Kaiser Health System Tracker

Increases in Cost-Sharing Payments Continue to Outpace Wage Growth

While overall healthcare spending has been growing at modest rates in recent years, growth in out-of-pocket costs comes at a time when wages have been largely stagnant.

Jun 15, 2018 [63]
Source: Peterson-Kaiser Health System Tracker

How Have Healthcare Prices Changed in the U.S., and How Do They Compare with Other Countries?
These two chart collections examine trends in prices for health services over time and by comparison to comparable countries.

May 8, 2018 [64]
Source: Minnesota Physician

**Improving One Practice at a Time**

The Peterson Center on Healthcare’s Director of Dissemination co-authors an article describing an effort to replicate a model of high-performance primary care at the Essentia Health-Moorhead Clinic in Minnesota.

Apr 19, 2018 [65]
Source: JAMA Internal Medicine

**Approach for Achieving Effective Care for High-Need Patients**

This article from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health summarizes practical steps physicians can take to improve care for high-need patients. It was supported in part by a grant from the Peterson Center on Healthcare.

Apr 9, 2018 [66]

**Diffusion of Innovation**

The February 2018 edition of Health Affairs focuses on the critical issue of diffusion of innovation within healthcare.

Feb 6, 2018 [67]

**Exploring Attributes of High-Value Primary Care**

Thirteen specific attributes of care delivery can improve the quality of care while lowering costs, according to new research from Stanford University’s Clinical Excellence Research Center.

Nov 16, 2017 [68]

**Learning Update: Improving Healthcare for High-Need Patients**

In this report, we share what we’ve learned, the questions we are now asking ourselves and our partners, and why we are optimistic about improving care for high-need patients.

Nov 15, 2017 [69]

**Price and Intensity Identified as the Major Drivers of Rising Healthcare Spending**


Nov 8, 2017 [70]

**Peterson Center on Healthcare Names Jay Want, MD as New Executive Director**

Dr. Want brings decades of experience in healthcare delivery, improvement science, data transparency and executive leadership.

Jun 27, 2017 [71]

**Peterson Center on Healthcare Teams with Brown University to Study Exemplary Care for High-Need Medicare Patients**

Brown University-based initiative will identify hospital systems providing high-quality, cost-effective care, with the aim of replication and broader adoption.

May 31, 2017 [71]
Source: Health Affairs

**Accelerating Adoption and Diffusion of Innovations in Care Delivery**
The Peterson Center on Healthcare is testing how to replicate the features of 11 exemplary practices to improve health care practice across the country on four dimensions: clinical and functional outcomes, the experience of care, clinician engagement, and total cost of care.

May 16, 2017 [72]

**New Initiative to Help Employers Become More Effective Purchasers of Healthcare**

Catalyst for Payment Reform and the Peterson Center on Healthcare team up to help employers develop, test and share strategies to purchase high-quality, lower-cost healthcare.

May 2, 2017 [2]
Source: Modern Healthcare

**High-Need Patients Are Being Under-Served, and It Needs to Change**

For the most vulnerable, chronically ill among us—many of whom cope with behavioral health challenges and struggle to secure housing, food or transportation—the journey to receive the care they need can be daunting.

Apr 29, 2017 [73]

**Five National Health Care Foundations Identify Promising Approaches for Treating Patients With Complex Needs**

A new nationwide survey of patients with complex medical needs shows that the health care system is failing them.

Dec 9, 2016 [3]

**Peterson Center on Healthcare Unveils New Initiative to Transform Primary Care**

The Center announced a new initiative to transform how primary care practices deliver care by installing a proven, high-performance, lower-cost model.

Sep 22, 2016 [4]
Source: New England Journal of Medicine

**Caring for High-Need, High-Cost Patients — An Urgent Priority**

Leaders from The Commonwealth Fund, The John A. Hartford Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Peterson Center on Healthcare, and The SCAN Foundation will launch resources later this year that are intended to help meet the urgent goals of high-need patients.

Sep 8, 2016 [74]

**Five Foundations Combine Forces to Improve Health and Reduce Costs for Chronically Ill Patients With Complex Care Needs**

Five national health care foundations today announced a new collaboration to transform care delivery for chronically ill patients who have the greatest need for health care services.

Jul 27, 2016 [5]

**New Online Resource Provides Best Practices, Tools for States to Improve Healthcare Quality, Lower Costs**

National Governors Association and National Academy of Medicine identify key priority areas and proven solutions for states to improve the value of healthcare.

Jul 19, 2016 [6]

**Peterson Center on Healthcare Supports New Initiative to Forecast Trends in U.S. Healthcare Spending**

The Peterson Center on Healthcare announced an innovative new initiative designed to identify past drivers of U.S. healthcare spending in order to better forecast future spending trends.

Mar 30, 2016 [7]
Foundations Unite to Support Access to Clinical Notes for 50 Million Patients Nationwide

Cambia Health Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Peterson Center on Healthcare, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation today jointly announced $10 million in new funding to spread access to clinical notes to 50 million patients nationwide.

Dec 15, 2015 [8]

Peterson Center on Healthcare Announces Innovative Three-Stage Grant to Identify Healthcare Solutions for High-Need Patients

The research project is an innovative collaboration among healthcare experts at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the Institute of Medicine, and the Bipartisan Policy Center.

Jun 3, 2015 [9]

Peterson Center on Healthcare Announces Three Major Initiatives

Today, the Peterson Center on Healthcare, a new organization established by the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, announced three major initiatives to advance the Center’s mission to transform U.S. healthcare into a high-performance system that delivers high-quality care at a lower cost.

Dec 3, 2014 [10]

Peterson Center on Healthcare Launches With $200M Commitment to Improve U.S. Healthcare

The Peter G. Peterson Foundation is launching the Peterson Center on Healthcare on Thursday, December 4, 2014, at the Jack Morton Auditorium in Washington, DC.


Events

Peterson Center on Healthcare Launch

The Peter G. Peterson Foundation launched the Peterson Center on Healthcare on December 4, 2014, at the Jack Morton Auditorium in Washington, DC.

Dec 4, 2014 [12]

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Connect with us to stay up to date on what we are doing to find, validate, and facilitate adoption of innovations that improve quality of care and lower costs.

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