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

Unvaccinated COVID-19 Hospitalizations Cost Billions of Dollars

In this analysis, we seek to quantify the number of hospitalizations that could have been prevented by vaccination and the total cost of these hospitalizations.

Dec 22, 2021 [13]
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

COVID-19 Breakthrough Hospitalizations

In this brief, we describe the characteristics of fully vaccinated hospitalized patients who have COVID-19 breakthrough infections, in comparison to people who are not fully vaccinated and hospitalized with COVID-19.

Dec 15, 2021 [14]
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

What Impact Has the Coronavirus Pandemic Had on Health Employment?

This chart collection analyzes how jobs and wages in the healthcare industry have recovered from the pandemic compared to non-healthcare sectors, and how this recovery is distributed across healthcare industries.

Dec 10, 2021 [15]
Source: The Hill

Our Past Pandemic Investments Are Roadmaps to Defeating COVID Globally

When the G-20’s health and finance ministers announced the creation of a global panel to fight pandemics last week, it was immediately met with criticism for failing to pledge any new funding to combat COVID in the world’s poorest countries.

Nov 4, 2021 [16]
Source: The New York Times

An Unsolved Mystery: Why Do More Men Die of COVID-19?

Men are much more likely than women to die of COVID-19 and are more likely to be intubated and have long hospitalizations. This disparity has existed since early in the pandemic, but the reasons remain unclear.

Nov 2, 2021 [17]
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

Insurer Filings Suggest COVID-19 Will Not Drive Health Spending in 2022

In this brief, we reviewed final 2022 premium rate filings for Marketplace-participating individual market insurers in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
How Does the Quality of the U.S. Health System Compare to Other Countries?

The U.S. has lagged behind comparable countries in key measures of health outcomes, quality of care and access to services. The pandemic could enlarge those gaps.

How Does U.S. Life Expectancy Compare to Other Countries?

This chart collection examines how life expectancy in the U.S. compares to other similarly large and wealthy countries. Using provisional 2020 estimates, we also assess how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected life expectancy in the U.S. compared to peer countries.

Unvaccinated COVID-19 Hospitalizations Cost Billions of Dollars

Our analysis of HHS and CDC data indicates there were 32,000 preventable COVID-19 hospitalizations in June, 68,000 preventable COVID-19 hospitalizations in July and another 187,000 preventable COVID-19 hospitalizations among unvaccinated adults in the U.S.

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

Looking at the most recent data available on deaths from COVID-19 and other causes, we estimate that COVID-19 is currently the number three leading cause of death in the U.S. in August 2021.

Most Private Insurers Are No Longer Waiving Cost-Sharing for COVID-19 Treatment

In this brief, we once again review how many private insurers are continuing to waive patient cost-sharing for COVID-19 treatment.

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.

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.

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 [25]
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 [26]
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 [27]
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 [28]
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 [29]
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 [30]
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 [31]
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 [32]
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 [33]
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 [34]
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.

Jan 28, 2021 [35]
Source: Milbank Memorial Fund

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.

Jan 26, 2021 [36]
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

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.

Dec 1, 2020 [37]
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

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.

Nov 4, 2020 [38]

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.

Sep 15, 2020 [39]
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

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.

Aug 6, 2020
Source: STAT

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.

Jul 27, 2020
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

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.

Jul 23, 2020
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

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.

Jul 15, 2020
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

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.

Jun 16, 2020
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

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.

May 19, 2020
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

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.

Apr 22, 2020
Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

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.

Source: The New England Journal of Medicine

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.

Source: American Enterprise Institute

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.

Source: Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker

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.

Source: The Hamilton Project

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.

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.

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.

Source: Civica Rx

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
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

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
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 [61]

Rhode Island Healthcare Cost Trends Project Unites Providers, Payers, Policymakers, and Consumers Around Shared Vision for Improving Healthcare Performance

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

Feb 6, 2019 [62]

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 [63]

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 [64]

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 [65]

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 [66]

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 [67]

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 [68]

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
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
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
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
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
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

**Diffusion of Innovation**

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

Feb 6, 2018

**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

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


Nov 8, 2017

**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 [78]

**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 [1]
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 [79]

**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 [3]
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 [80]

**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 [81]

**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.
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.

Links
[34] https://www.wsj.com/articles/what-to-do-when-theres-a-covid-19-vaccine-glut-11612732696
[38] https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/chart-collection/how-costly-are-common-health-services-in-the-united-states/
[40] https://www.healthsystemtracker.org/brief/how-private-insurers-are-using-telehealth-to-respond-to-the-pandemic/