



CMS Snapshot

November 30-December 7, 2023

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group in the Office of Communications

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, November 30 through 2pm Thursday, December 7, 2023

News Releases

*November 30- [Statement by Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine on World AIDS Day](#). To observe World AIDS Day on December 1, Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Rachel Levine, MD, released the following statement: “Today, on the 35th commemoration of World AIDS Day, and prompted by this year’s theme, *World AIDS Day 35: Remember and Commit*, we pause to remember the estimated 39 million individuals living with HIV around the world, including 1.2 million people here in the United States. We also remember the more than 40 million people worldwide who have died from HIV/AIDS since the start of the pandemic.”

*December 1- [600,000 North Carolinians Now Have Access to Medicaid Expansion Coverage](#). *North Carolina becomes the fourth state to expand Medicaid during the Biden-Harris Administration*. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), celebrated the news that approximately 600,000 North Carolinians between the ages of 19-64 are now eligible for comprehensive health coverage, thanks to the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) Medicaid expansion.

*December 1- [CMS Roundup \(Dec. 1, 2023\)](#). Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provides an at-a-glance summary of news from around the agency.

*December 1- [Latest Data from HRSA Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Highlight Nine Out of Ten Clients with HIV Are Virally Suppressed](#). *Program Continues to Improve HIV Health Outcomes and Make Progress to End the Epidemic in the U.S. Overall and for High Need Populations*. Today, in commemoration of World AIDS Day, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), released the latest Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program data, which show that nine out of ten people with HIV receiving medical care through the program are virally suppressed. Viral suppression means people with HIV taking their medication cannot sexually transmit HIV and can live longer and healthier lives.

*December 1- [President Biden Takes Action to Renew and Strengthen the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders](#). *President Biden signs an Executive Order to reauthorize the Commission through September 2025 and hosts commissioners at the White House.* On Thursday, October 26, 2023, President Joe Biden welcomed members of the [President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders](#) to the White House to discuss the Biden-Harris Administration's government-wide approach to equity and ongoing efforts to address challenges faced by underserved Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities.

*December 1- [Statement by Secretary Xavier Becerra on the Passing of Former Pan American Health Organization \(PAHO\) Director, Dr. Carissa F. Etienne](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra released the following statement on the passing of former Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Director, Dr. Carissa F. Etienne.

*December 3- [HHS Shares Health Sector Climate Resilience and Emissions Reduction Announcements at COP28](#). *Highlights include a new HHS Climate Change and Health Equity Strategy Supplement and planned work by federal health systems on clinical decarbonization.* (Dubai, United Arab Emirates) – A U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) delegation to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) today released, during its first-ever Health Day, a Climate Change and Health Equity Strategy Supplement, outlining the work of agencies across the Department to support climate resilience and greenhouse gas emission reduction in the U.S. Health Sector.

*December 4- [U.S. Surgeon General Wraps Successful Nationwide College Tour, Launches 5-for-5 Connection Challenge to the American Public](#). Today, United States Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy is launching the [5-for-5 Connection Challenge](#), calling on Americans to take five actions over five days to build more connection in their lives. Dr. Murthy recently issued this challenge to students across the country on his ["We Are Made to Connect" College Tour](#), which concluded just last week. Now, as we enter the holiday season, the 5-for-5 Connection Challenge aims to inspire people of all ages to build, strengthen, and prioritize their relationships.

*December 4- [HHS Statement on the Passing of Andrés Gallegos](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) joins the disability community in mourning the loss of Andrés Gallegos, Chairman of the National Council on Disability (NCD), who passed away over the weekend. Andrés was one of our nation's most important legal minds on disability rights, a fierce champion of true inclusion and equal opportunities for disabled people, and a leader in the independent living movement.

*December 6- [More than 7 Million Selected Affordable Health Coverage in ACA Marketplace Since Start of Open Enrollment Period](#). *Enrollment increases continue as the deadline for January coverage fast approaches.* ACA Marketplace National Enrollment [Snapshot](#). Nearly 7.3 million people have selected an Affordable Care Act (ACA) Health Insurance Marketplace plan

since the 2024 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) opened on November 1. This represents activity through December 2 (Week 5) for the 32 states using HealthCare.gov and through November 25 (Week 4) for the 18 states and the District of Columbia with State-based Marketplaces (SBMs).

*December 6- [HHS Announces Next Steps in Ongoing Work to Enhance Cybersecurity for Health Care and Public Health Sectors](#). *Concept paper highlights ongoing and planned steps to improve cyber resiliency and protect patient safety.* The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today released a concept paper that outlines the Department's cybersecurity strategy for the health care sector. The concept paper builds on the National Cybersecurity Strategy that President Biden released last year, focusing specifically on strengthening resilience for hospitals, patients, and communities threatened by cyber-attacks.

*December 7- [HHS' Office for Civil Rights Settles First Ever Phishing Cyber-Attack Investigation](#). *Louisiana Medical Group settles after investigation reveals large cybersecurity breach affecting nearly 35,000 patients.* Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), announced a settlement with Lafourche Medical Group, a Louisiana medical group specializing in emergency medicine, occupational medicine, and laboratory testing. The settlement resolves an investigation following a phishing attack that affected the electronic protected health information of approximately 34,862 individuals.

Blog

*December 4- [Newborn Supply Kit Shows Promising Early Results](#). By: [Caryn Marks](#), Director of Strategic Partnerships, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), [Lindsay Moore](#), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and [Diamond Greene](#), HHS/IEA. Summary: Newborn Supply Kit initiative shows promising effects of the Kits on the health and wellbeing of new parents. Families need more support. Today, [basic newborn supplies like diapers](#) can cost an average of \$1,000 a year for each diapered child in a home. In addition, [nearly 1 in 8 women](#) – regardless of age, income, or race – will suffer from some form of postpartum anxiety or depression, a number that is on the rise for women in America. Further, mental health conditions now comprise [23% of pregnancy-related deaths](#) – more than any other single category.

*December 7- [Don't delay: Sign up by Dec 15 for coverage that starts Jan 1!](#) Time is running out. The December 15 deadline to apply, re-enroll, or make changes for Marketplace coverage that starts January 1 is approaching fast. Act now to avoid any gaps in coverage.

Fact Sheet

*December 6- [Marketplace 2024 Open Enrollment Period Report: National Snapshot #2](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reports that nearly 7.3 million Americans have signed up for 2024 individual market health insurance coverage through the Marketplaces since the start of the 2024 Marketplace Open Enrollment Period (OEP) on November 1.