Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
PolicyLab

Responding to COVID-19

Statement of Problem

The cycles of significant COVID-19 community transmission over the past couple of years have presented extreme challenges to the health and well-being of children and families throughout the country. These obstacles include disruptions to education and access to health services, social isolation, experiences of loss, and much more.

While it's exciting that children ages 5 and older can receive the COVID-19 vaccine, families with young children who receive early care and education continue to face unique challenges, and K-12 schools are still in need of practical guidance focused on navigating the lingering health and social impacts associated with the virus.

Description

At PolicyLab, we are grateful for the work of community and advocacy partners, frontline health and service providers, policymakers, public health and education leaders, and research colleagues in keeping families safe and healthy since the start of the pandemic. While much work has been done, there remain many concerning and inequitable impacts for children and families, which we outline in **this blog post**. Below you will find additional resources and materials that represent some of the timely, critical areas—such as behavioral health, health equity and school safety—we continue to work on.

Monitoring COVID-19 transmission

- **Forecasting COVID-19 Transmission Across Time in U.S. Counties**
- **The Relationship Between State COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Adult Hospital Census in 200 Words**
- **The Effectiveness of Government Masking Mandates On COVID-19 County-level Case Incidence Across the United States, 2020**
- **How Effective are Mask Mandates at Stopping the Spread of COVID-19?**

Keeping schools safely open

- **Guidance for Updated COVID-19 School Mitigation Plans for Academic Year 2022-23**
- **Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing: Project: ACE-IT**
- **SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Public School District Employees Following a District-Wide Vaccination Program — Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, March 21–April 23, 2021**

Achieving equitable health outcomes

- **Informing Pennsylvania's COVID-19 Health Equity Response**
- **Child Abuse Imaging and Findings in the Time of COVID-19**
- **The Future of Virtual Service Delivery: Lessons Learned from Research and Programmatic Experience**
- **Disparities in SARS-CoV-2 Positivity Among Pregnant Patients with Limited English Proficiency**
- **Modernizing WIC Enrollment to Improve Access to Healthy Food for Children and Families**
- **Addressing the Unique Needs of Immigrant and Limited-English-Proficient Communities During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Addressing lingering behavioral health effects

- **In Their Own Words: Child and Adolescent Perceptions of Caregiver Stress in Early COVID-19 Pandemic**
- **Educators and Caregivers Need Better Tools to Support Youth with Eating Disorders**
- **Exploring Innovative Research & Partnerships to Support School-based Mental Health Services**
- **Addressing the Global Crisis of Child and Adolescent Mental Health**
- **Supporting the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Youth Following COVID-19's Impact**
- **Social Distancing to Virtual Learning: Breaking Down COVID-19's Impact on Mental Health Across Youth Developmental Stages**
- **Virtual Conversation: COVID-19—A Catalyst for Integrating Youth Behavioral Health Care Across Settings**

Ensuring the successful future of child care

- **The Child Care Crisis: Partnering with Health Care to Build a Stronger System**
- **Policy Considerations to Ensure Accessible and Quality Child Care**

Investigating the rising rates of sexually transmitted infections among youth amid the pandemic

- **Reducing STIs Through Equitable Chlamydia Screenings in Pediatric Settings**
- **How the COVID-19 Pandemic is Affecting Another Epidemic Among Teens: STDs**

Understanding the acceptability and feasibility of telehealth services

- **Acceptability of Telehealth for Gender-affirming Care in Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth and Their Caregivers**
- **Acceptability, Feasibility and Quality of Telehealth for Adolescent Health Care Delivery During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Cross-sectional Study of Patient and Family Experiences**
- **Telehealth's Impact on Teen Care During COVID-19 in 200 Words**

Preparing for the next pandemic

- **Senate HELP Committee Request for Information: Preparing for the Next Pandemic**
- **A Precision Public Health Approach to Preventing the Next COVID-19 Surge: It's Time to Talk about Surveillance**

Next Steps

PolicyLab will continue to work on addressing the impact of the pandemic on the children and families we serve, particularly issues related to health equity, ranging from adolescent behavioral health and sexual health, birth outcomes, social safety net program enrollment and disparities in access to telemedicine services. Through this work, PolicyLab will leverage its research, expertise, and experience distilling information for and engaging with policy audiences to advocate for policies and practices that will build a stronger, more supportive infrastructure for child and family health in the future as we recover from the pandemic.

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Related Tools & Publications

A Defining Moment for Pediatric Primary Care Telehealth
Article
Jul 2020

Addressing the Unique Needs of Immigrant and Limited-English-Proficient Communities During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Policy Briefs
Feb 2021

Are Refugee Essential Workers at a Higher Risk of Contracting COVID-19?
Blog Post
Mar 04, 2021

Assessing Child Abuse Hotline Inquiries in the Wake of COVID-19: Answering the Call
Article
May 2021

Association between Preferred Language and Risk of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 Infection in Children in the United States
Article
Sep 2021

Association of Social Distancing, Population Density, and Temperature With the Instantaneous Reproduction Number of SARS-CoV-2 in Counties Across the United States
Article
Jul 2020

Bright Spots to Support Back-to-School Health During COVID-19
Blog Post
Aug 24, 2021

Broadband Internet Access, Education & Child Health: From Differences to Disparities, Part 1
Blog Post
Sep 03, 2020

COVID-19 and Adolescent Depression and Suicide Risk Screening Outcomes
Article
Jun 2021

COVID-19 and Routine Childhood Vaccinations-Identifying Gaps and Informing Solutions
Article
Oct 2021

COVID-19 and Systemic Racism Threaten the 2020 Census
Blog Post
Oct 14, 2020

COVID-19 Outlook: 4 Trends Playing Out Across the Country
Blog Post
Sep 09, 2021

COVID-19 Outlook: A Country in Transition
Blog Post
Aug 26, 2021

COVID-19 Outlook: A Fall Resurgence of Uncertain Magnitude Develops as We Await Vaccines for Children
Blog Post
Oct 14, 2021

COVID-19 Outlook: A Nation Improves, But Challenges Re-emerge in Some Regions
Blog Post
Sep 24, 2021

COVID-19 Outlook: A Pandemic in Transition Requires Updated School Guidance
Blog Post
Jan 05, 2022

COVID-19 Outlook: A Pivotal Moment in the U.S. Fight Against Coronavirus
Blog Post
Jul 01, 2020

COVID-19 Outlook: A Second Wave to Blanket the Nation
Blog Post
Oct 14, 2020

COVID-19 Outlook: A Summer Resurgence as Schools Plan for Fall
Blog Post
Jul 20, 2021

COVID-19 Outlook: A Time to Follow the Data and Avoid Speculation
Blog Post
Feb 03, 2021

Related Projects

Forecasting COVID-19 Transmission Across Time in U.S. Counties
Population Health Sciences

Informing Pennsylvania’s COVID-19 Health Equity Response
Health Equity

Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing
Population Health Sciences