



## CMS Snapshot

### July 20-27, 2023

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, July 20 through 2pm Thursday, July 27, 2023

#### News Releases

\*July 21- [HHS Announces the First-Ever Official United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Service Mascot](#). Today, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the following statement announcing the [United States Public Health Service \(USPHS\) Commissioned Corps'](#) first official mascot – Lt. Cmdr. Abigail, a trained facility dog who will provide therapeutic care to patients and Public Health Service officers.

\*July 21- [Biden-Harris Administration Hosts Inaugural Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Mental Health Summit](#). *Mental health professionals, federal policymakers, and community leaders gather to advance equity and improve access to behavioral health care for AA and NHPs. Historic event builds on President Biden's Mental Health Strategy and the Administration's unprecedented investments to connect more Americans to care.* On Thursday, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) hosted an in-person summit focused on improving equity and access to behavioral health care for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities.

\*July 25- [Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Treasury announce proposed rules to strengthen Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act. 2023 comparative analysis report to Congress published alongside proposed rulemaking](#). The departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and the Treasury today announced an important step in addressing the nation's mental health crisis by [proposing rules to better ensure that people seeking coverage for mental health and substance use disorder care can access treatment as easily as people seeking coverage for medical treatments - PDF](#). "Mental health care is as important to the well-being of America's workers as medical care, and we must eliminate barriers to getting people the lifesaving care that they often need," said Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su. "Today's announcement reaffirms the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to ensuring equal

access to mental health and substance disorder benefits for all workers and improving employee wellness.”

\*July 26- [Statement from HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on the 33rd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#). Today marks 33 years since the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This sweeping legislation protects people with disabilities from discrimination by state and local governments and employers. It ensures equal access to healthcare, social services, transportation, telecommunications, and other critical services. The ADA guaranteed disabled people the right to live the lives they want to live, with equal access to all our country has to offer.

\*July 26- [HHS Invests \\$11 Million to Expand Medical Residencies in Rural Communities](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded nearly \$11 million to 15 awardees to strengthen the health workforce by establishing new residency programs in rural communities.

## Blogs

\*July 25- [CMS Releases Data Briefs That Provide Key Medicaid Demographic Data for the First Time](#). *Kimberly Proctor, Chief Medicaid Data Officer*. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) considers the full range of Medicaid and CHIP enrollees in its decision-making and in its efforts to measure disparities in access to care. CMS is committed to making focused investments to improve health equity. [1] Building on this commitment, CMS released a [series of data briefs](#) using the first-ever national estimates of the demographic composition of Medicaid and CHIP, including analyses stratified by race, ethnicity, primary language, geography, and eligibility on the basis of disability.

\*July 26- [Climate-Related Hazards and the Importance of Resiliency](#). By: [Rachel Levine M.D., Assistant Secretary for Health \(ASH\)](#), [John Balbus M.D., M.P.H., Office of Climate Change and Health Equity Acting Director](#) and [Jenny Keroack, Office of Climate Change and Health Equity](#). *Summary: As we grapple with a summer of extreme weather, HHS continues to strengthen programs & health systems to protect our health in the face of climate change. Can you remember a summer with more disruption from extreme weather events than this one? Whether we are staying indoors to protect ourselves from wildfire smoke, evacuating to avoid flooding, or losing power thanks to severe heatwaves, much of the country is directly experiencing more frequent and more severe climate change impacts than ever before. The repeated stories in the news this summer have been sobering.*

\*July 27- [New baby could mean new health coverage options](#). Having a baby qualifies you for a Special Enrollment Period to enroll in or change 2023 Marketplace coverage for you, your baby, and other household members.