

Our Impact in Health Policy



disparities are explained by reduced access to high-quality plans rather than by individual characteristics or enrollment decisions.

Amol Navathe, MD, PhD

is one of the nation's foremost experts on bundled payments as a strategy to reduce health care costs without compromising quality. In a recent study, he found that a bundled payment program for hip and knee joint replacement among beneficiaries in a Medicare Advantage plan was associated with reduced cost and discharge to a skilled nursing facility, without adverse impact on quality metrics. Dr. Navathe currently serves as Vice-Chair for CMS's Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), advising Congress on critical policy issues related to the nation's health care insurer for the elderly.

Norma B. Coe, PhD leads the Policy and Economics of Disability, Aging, and Long Term Care (PEDAL) Lab, which studies policies related to aging and disability, including insurance design, health care, long-term care, end-of-life care, and Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. In an award-winning recent study, she showed that members of racial and ethnic minority groups have lower enrollment in high-quality Medicare Advantage plans than White non-Hispanic individuals, but that these

Ravi Parikh, MD, MPP leads the Human Algorithm Collaboration Lab, which aims to integrate artificial intelligence, machine learning, and use of real-world data into patient care - especially cancer care - in an effective and equitable way. He has shown that use of a machine learning algorithm to identify cancer patients at high risk of early death, followed by nudges to patients' clinicians, increased the frequency of serious illness conversations and decreased use of systemic therapy at the end

of life, without significant effects on other end-of-life quality metrics.

Christina Roberto, PhD an expert on food and nutrition policy, directs the Psychology of Eating and Consumer Health (PEACH) Lab. Her research on Philadelphia's "soda tax" demonstrated that taxed beverage purchases dropped by 38% one year after the tax was implemented. A follow up analysis was the first to demonstrate an impact of the tax on a clinically relevant health outcome - dental decay in low-income children. Her research has also examined other policies to promote healthy eating (e.g., food and nutrition labeling) and she has written about strategic science approaches to closing the scholarship-policy gap.

Aaron Schwartz, MD, PhD leads a program of research focused on defining, measuring, and reducing low-value care. He recently demonstrated substantial variation in the frequency of low-value service delivery across Veterans Affairs facilities despite the use of a common payer and shared treatment guidelines and electronic infrastructure. Even at facilities with the lowest use of low-value services, however, he showed substantial opportunity for improvement. This research suggested the need for system-wide rather than targeted efforts to reduce the use of low-value care.

Harsha Thirumurthy, PhD is one of the world's leading authorities on the use of behavioral interventions to improve health in low and middle

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income countries (LMICs). In partnership with the University of Witwatersrand's Health Economics and Epidemiology Research Office (HE²RO), he and affiliated faculty member Alison Buttenheim, PhD, MBA, launched Indlela: Behavioural Insights for Better Health, one of the first behavioral economics research units in Africa. In addition, he recently demonstrated the profound benefits of cash transfer programs on both adult and child mortality in LMICs.

Atheendar Venkataramani, MD PhD, founded the Opportunity for Health Lab, devoted to studying the relationship between opportunity - including financial, educational, and social opportunity - and health.

Among his many contributions, he demonstrated marked reduction of food insecurity due to receipt of unemployment insurance during the COVID-19 pandemic and showed that police killings of unarmed black Americans have adverse effects on mental health among black American adults in the general population. He currently co-leads an NIH-funded randomized trial to test whether a multifaceted package of physical,

social, and financial interventions can improve health outcomes for residents of low-income, majority Black areas of Philadelphia.

Kevin Volpp, MD, PhD Director of the Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics (CHIBE), lead-authored a policy statement on behalf of the American Heart Association (AHA) articulating the state of the science underlying

"Food is Medicine," which proposes that health care institutions should provide health food to patients as part of the comprehensive management of selected chronic illnesses such as diabetes. He currently serves as Research Lead for the AHA's Food is Medicine Initiative. He is also a renowned scientist who has led seminal studies that apply behavioral economics insights to health.



Harsha Thirumurthy



Alon Bergman



Norma Coe



Ezekiel Emanuel



Laura Gibson



Sophia Hua



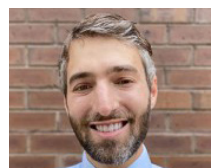
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