Center for Health Economics & Policy

Health economics and policy is an applied field that studies how society allocates its resources, what and how health services are produced, who receives them, and how policies can influence these decisions.

The health of communities across the U.S. and Missouri are greatly affected by health economic and policy decisions. The best opportunity to advance health, particularly among the most vulnerable, is for these decisions to be informed by sound data and evidence.

How We Work

We conduct high-impact and data-driven analysis and share findings with policymakers and public health leaders.

We are thought leaders who convene local, national and international experts to find solutions to the most difficult health economics and policy challenges.

We nurture development of students, trainees and faculty in methods to produce high-quality health economics and policy research.

What We Do

**ISSUE**

Compared to medical care alone, social factors such as education level and health insurance status contribute to about 85% of preventable deaths in the U.S.

Our nation’s most vulnerable communities depend on Medicaid for access to medical care.

**OUR ROLE**

Our center examines how these and other social determinants affect health outcomes and illuminates ways that health systems can reduce preventable deaths.

Our center is a trailblazer in analyzing data to support advances to evidence-based Medicaid policy.
Social determinants of health are major drivers of poor health outcomes. Our center’s researchers conduct projects evaluating determinants including poverty, racism, and access to care as well as policies affecting rural providers and residents.

We bring together multidisciplinary researchers focused on understanding the relationship between social determinants of health and COVID-19 outcomes.

Our center produces research papers and issue briefs that highlight differences in health care insurance, access to care, and the expected impact of Medicaid expansion on rural and urban areas.

These projects help local and national policymakers address crucial root causes of poor health.

We collaborate with providers and government officials to write and disseminate briefs and develop interactive data visualizations focused on key policy issues.

Our center’s Transforming Healthcare in Missouri meetings focus on the Medicaid program, bringing together health care providers, researchers, economists, advocates, insurers, state administrators and policymakers to develop non-partisan, evidence-based policy recommendations.

Our brief on funding opportunities for local mental health needs serves as an informational resource for local governments and organizations considering a county-level tax as a way to address unmet mental health needs in their communities.

Our informational brief on COVID-19 for legislators helps them use data to interpret the impact of the pandemic in their communities. This brief is paired with data visualizations showing how the pandemic has spread geographically under various policy choices.