

## Health Care Reports of Interests

The annual 50-state Medicaid budget survey released by the Kaiser Family Foundation's Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured (KCMU) finds that due to a weakening economy, enrollment in Medicaid grew in fiscal year 2008 (with even larger increases expected in 2009), causing Medicaid spending to increase more rapidly than anytime in the recent past, and raising the potential for program cutbacks by states to control costs.

According to the survey more states made restorations, enhancements or expansions to their Medicaid programs than made cuts for fiscal years (FY) 2008 and 2009. These include changes to provider reimbursement levels, Medicaid eligibility requirements and enrollment processes, and benefits. However, two-thirds of state Medicaid Directors surveyed indicated that there is a 50-50 chance of a Medicaid budget shortfall in their state this year that could force midyear changes to control costs that could include cuts in eligibility and outreach program.

Click here to read the report, executive summary, and press release:

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/7815.cfm>.

On October 7, the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease and the Partnership for Prevention released a fact sheet, "The Value of Prevention," that states that policies to promote preventive health services have the potential to reduce chronic illnesses and decrease overall health care spending in America.

According to the fact sheet, chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease, and their underlying causes such as obesity and tobacco use, affect more than 130 million Americans - nearly half the population - and account for 75 percent of U.S. health care spending, or \$1.5 trillion annually yet less than 5 percent of America's health care dollars go toward prevention.

Click here the access the fact sheet

[http://www.fightchronicdisease.org/pdfs/PFCD\\_onepager\\_final\\_002.pdf](http://www.fightchronicdisease.org/pdfs/PFCD_onepager_final_002.pdf).

Click here to access the Partnership for Prevention rankings of preventive services

<http://www.prevent.org/content/view/43/71/>

A report, release on Oct. 8, by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission, "America's Health Starts With Healthy Children: How Do States Compare?" found that children's health is closely link to family income and education. In nearly every state and Washington, DC, children in the poorest and least educated households have worst healthcare outcomes. The report also found that the health of children in middle class families is worst that those in wealthier families.

Click her to access the report and state specific data

<http://www.commissiononhealth.org/statedata>.

Click her to calculate how education is associated/link to health in your state

<http://www.commissiononhealth.org/calculator>

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