



HEALTH CARE HEADLINES 2021



Beyond COVID: we chatted with the experts about public health

In a conversation moderated by foundation president Frances Padilla, Liany Arroyo, MPH, CPH, Director of Hartford's



Department of Health and Human Services and Jennifer Muggeo, MPH, Deputy Director of Ledge Light Health District discussed how relationships built prior to the pandemic with health, social service and community-based organizations were crucial. They talked about the challenges to promote health equity and fill gaps when it came to testing and vaccinations, and lessons learned from COVID that can prepare us for future public health crises. Watch this truth-telling, thought-provoking conversation [here](#).



We ran the numbers, and big surprise, your health care is too expensive.

Everybody deserves good care they can afford. But in Connecticut, we couldn't really say what *affordable* means.

Now we know. A project that Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut helped fund, the Health Care Affordability Index, was just released. It established for the first time a target defining affordable health care. It is not 30 or 50 percent of income, but 7 to 11 percent. Now we've got the data, it's time to organize, put it to use and make health care affordable for everybody. [Check out the index here](#).

Post legislative-session update

Governor Lamont has been in bill signing mode since the session ended. Here are a few that he has signed into law so far:

- Dental and vision coverage for children, stepchildren, and other dependent children up to age 26
- A ban on changing the list of covered drugs in the middle of the private insurance plan year
- A bill declaring racism a public health crisis and creating a commission to address racial equity in public health



What we're still waiting for:

- A bill expanding HUSKY (Medicaid) to undocumented children 8 years of age and younger, and to prenatal and postpartum care for undocumented pregnant people.



Support Life-Saving Dialysis Treatment for Undocumented

Hospitals are required by federal regulations to provide life-sustaining treatment to uninsured undocumented immigrants who show up in the emergency department and to treat them until they can be discharged safely. In Connecticut, however, undocumented immigrants don't have access to outpatient services or less-expensive nursing home care if they require ongoing treatment after hospitalization.

So patients like Maria must stay in the hospital to stay alive. Read the full story [here](#) and [SIGN THIS PETITION](#) to help patients like Maria.

As always, [tell us what you'd like to hear more about](#) so you can see the latest on all the issues you care about.

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