



FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

A SNAPSHOT OF A POLICYLAB RESEARCH PORTFOLIO

**WE'RE BUILDING
EVIDENCE FOR
SUSTAINABLE,
FAMILY-CENTERED
PROGRAMS WITHIN
AND OUTSIDE OF
THE HEALTH CARE
SYSTEM TO BETTER
THE HEALTH OF
CHILDREN, FAMILIES
AND COMMUNITIES.**

Caregivers' health shapes children's health. That's why we lead research on how systems can better help meet caregivers' and families' needs.

Our unique position within a pediatric health system allows us to collaborate with community partners to bridge health, education, public benefit and other family-serving systems. We help ensure that they can proactively meet caregivers' and families' needs. And we rigorously evaluate the outcomes of health services and programs to ensure they work for families.

We also work across PolicyLab's four other research portfolios to collaborate on innovative projects that examine and bolster the intersection between pediatric health care and public health systems and programs.

POLICYLAB'S FOCUS ON FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES



Early Childhood

Early childhood is a period of rapid growth and development. Support for children and caregivers during this time can promote family health and well-being in the future.

Our research aims to help families build a strong foundation by developing, implementing and evaluating programs during the first years of a child's life. For instance, our experts are integrating innovative family-centered programs into pediatric primary care to promote positive parenting and address young children's behavioral health concerns.

In the community, supportive early childhood environments have long-term benefits for children. We develop and evaluate programs to improve accessibility of programs to support child development, including an initiative to connect families to quality child care and improve communication among systems.

Sustainable funding and a sustainable workforce for pediatric primary care and community programs are critical for providing future support for children and families. We explore long-term funding streams for implementing evidence-based models of care that promote early literacy, early childhood development and caregiver well-being.



Family-centered Interventions in Pediatrics

Families have consistent interactions with the pediatric primary care system throughout childhood, offering the opportunity to identify family needs and connect to supports that improve child and caregiver health.

We implement, evaluate and scale programs to support the well-being of families in pediatric settings. For example, our researchers are building primary care teams' capacity to work with families to identify needs, facilitate access to resources, and promote healthy physical and emotional development. We also develop and connect families to interventions to support nutrition education and food security, and test how best to help caregivers access services they may need to support their own health.

PolicyLab researchers explore how to partner with and better connect families to systems that interact with pediatrics. For example, one pilot initiative is focused on building relationships between family-serving systems, such as home visiting and health care teams, to foster a collaborative network of care for families.



Maternal-Child Health

Many caregivers experience barriers to getting their own care.

At PolicyLab, we evaluate strategies to provide care that can have positive health impacts for both caregivers and their children. Our research examines the interconception period as a key time when pediatric health systems may be uniquely positioned to help coordinate preventive care for mothers and their children across multiple health or community institutions. Our experts also explore emerging tools to support caregiver health, such as the use of telehealth to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity disparities.

In addition, PolicyLab researchers lead an effort to describe and share successful public health strategies to ensure children whose families speak languages other than English are included in vaccine outreach, education and delivery.



Public Systems & Community Programs

Embedding evidence-based programs and policies within public systems helps families overcome structural barriers that impact well-being.

We explore emerging family care strategies within the context of other systems with which families interact. For example, PolicyLab researchers are looking into programs and policies to support families with a caregiver experiencing substance use. Our experts evaluate community-based programs, including adaptations to evidence-based home visiting, strengths-based group sessions for parents in recovery and therapeutic models for parents in residential treatment programs.

We also examine policies and implement practices that enhance equitable access to care, reduce structural barriers, and address intersecting challenges to family well-being, like intimate partner violence, child safety concerns, and unaddressed mental health challenges.



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for full reference list and to learn more about all of our family and community health research.