

Mathematica in California: Progress Together to Improve and Transform Health Care

Mathematica collaborates with and advises partners in the public, private, and philanthropic sectors. We use data science, social science, and technology to address pressing social challenges—from the effects of climate change to disparities in health care, education, and employment. We are home to over 1,800 experts in health, human services, and global development, driven by a common mission—to improve public well-being.

Since Mathematica's first project in California in 1976, its multidisciplinary teams have collaborated with a wide range of partners across the state to build knowledge, improve programs, and develop solutions. In 2009, Mathematica opened an office in Oakland, and today more than 100 employees work from California. Our health team is dedicated to informing health policy decisions; promoting health equity; and supporting the goal of delivering high-quality, affordable, and accessible care.

Partnering in California

Health Equity and Quality Data Analytics

Mathematica helps the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) plan, organize, and coordinate the receipt of health equity and quality measure data submissions from DMHC-licensed full-service and behavioral health plans. We also offer consulting and data analytical services, such as the provision of performance reports and technical assistance for health plans and annual public reports on health equity and quality.

Supporting Implementation of the Office of Health Care Affordability

Mathematica is helping to develop and manage California's health care spending target for the Department of Health Care Access and Information's Office of Health Care Affordability. We are identifying data sources to calculate total health care expenditures in the state and helping to create data collection tools and design an equity adjustment. We are leading development of the report on California's total health care spending and spending growth from 2022 to 2023 and conducting other analyses on spending.

Primary Care Policy to Advance Health Equity: Evidence and Opportunities for Action

Partnering with the California Health Care Foundation, Mathematica synthesized decades of literature on the essential role of primary care in advancing health equity. Building on this information, we hosted a summit of thought leaders in primary care policy and health equity. The purpose of the summit was to develop a consensus on policy priorities and catalyze collective action to strengthen primary care and advance health equity in California. This work produced concrete next steps that multiple actors across the state can take to achieve these goals.

Statewide Home and Community-Based Services Gap Analysis and Multiyear Roadmap

With the California Department of Health Care Services and the California Department of Aging, Mathematica is working to identify gaps in access and identify strategies to expand access to Medi-Cal and non-Medi-Cal home and community-based services for older adults and people with disabilities in California. Our mixed-methods approach is generating recommendations informed by data, grounded in the needs of California's diverse population and the regions where they live, and supported by key partners.

Evaluation of Oakland's Reducing Consumption of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages Efforts

For the City of Oakland, Mathematica evaluated programs and services funded with revenue from the city's sugarsweetened beverage tax, a diverse portfolio of community-based investments designed to promote health and equity. Mathematica produced profiles of over 30 agencies funded between 2019 and 2021. We continue to work with Oakland to evaluate agencies receiving funding and to lay the groundwork to help Oakland better describe the reach and impact of these investments.

Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative Evaluation

For the California Health and Human Services Agency, Mathematica is evaluating the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative to assess outcomes, access to and experience with behavioral health services, and system-level support and collaboration. We are using Results-Based Accountability, a data-driven approach that aligns priorities and measures progress, to create a dashboard on progress and inform training and technical assistance. The evaluation team is using culturally responsive and equitable evaluation practices, which includes engaging youth and communities through a pulse survey and focus groups, and an advisory board that includes youth, families, and partners that provide services.



Let's Progress Together. Contact us at info@mathematica-mpr.com

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