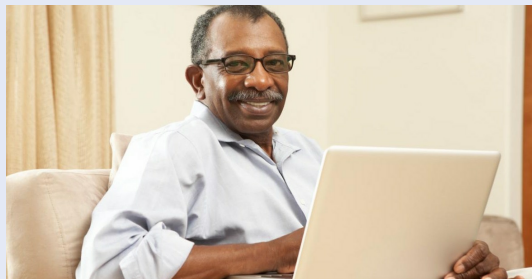


September 30, 2021

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

Trust for America's Health has recently released the 18th annual **[State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America](#)**. One of the major findings noted in this report is that social and economic factors linked to obesity were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The obesity rates for every state and the District of Columbia, and by racial and ethnic groups, age, and gender are included in this report. TFAH offers policy recommendations for federal, state and local government, and across several sectors, on how best to address the social determinants of obesity.

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Monthly Trainings

Recent data shows that falls among older adults have increased since the COVID-19 pandemic due to social isolation and decreased physical activity. Falls can significantly impact older adults' ability to live independently. Public health evidence-based interventions are key in reducing and preventing falls. TFAH's October AFPHS training will feature Dr. Robin Lee, Team Lead, Division of Injury Prevention at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention & Control. Dr. Lee will highlight the strategies for fall prevention, with a specific focus on CDC's Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries programs.

This session will occur on **Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 3:00 pm ET**. Register [here](#).

You can also view a recording of our September training – [Collaborating to Promote Healthy Aging](#) and our latest [blog post](#) What's Public Health Got to do With..... Collaboration.

Meeting Rural America's Housing Needs: A Conversation with Sens. Smith and Rounds. *Thursday, September 30, 2021, 9:00 am – 9:45 am ET* This Bipartisan Policy Center webinar will highlight priorities identified by Senators Tina Smith (D-MN) and Mike Rounds (R-SD) for improving rural housing challenges, as well as opportunities for bipartisan collaboration. Senators Smith Rounds are the Chair and Ranking Member, respectively, of the Senate Banking Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development. Register [here](#).

Healthy People 2030 Social Determinants Of Health Partner Webinar .

Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm ET The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, in partnership with the National Association of County and City Health Officials, will present a brief overview of how Healthy People 2030 addresses the social determinants of health (SDOH) and demonstrate how select Healthy People 2030 objectives are aligned with SDOH. Webinar attendees will learn about how local health departments and community-based organizations are partnering to address SDOH using the Healthy People 2030 framework. Register [here](#).

The Public Health Workforce: Morale, Mental Health, and Moving Forward . *Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET* This Public Health Communications Collaborative webinar will address the ongoing challenges of dealing with misinformation, political divides and even harassment that the public health workforce has experienced during the pandemic. Messaging and communications tools to help public health officials support their workforce, their colleagues, and their own mental health will be highlighted. Dr. Jeanette Kowalik, Director of Policy Development at Trust for America's Health, is one of the featured speakers for this session. Register [here](#).

Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Caregivers during the COVID-19 Pandemic – *Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm ET*. The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research presents the final installment of a four-part national webinar series on research related to social isolation and loneliness. This session will focus on social isolation and loneliness among caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Register [here](#).

Amplifying All Voices in Aging – *Wednesdays, October 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2021, 3:00 pm ET*. This SCAN Foundation Virtual Forum is a four-week series that will explore the stories of real people aging and engaging with health care and long-term services and supports systems. Register [here](#).

End Social Isolation and Loneliness 2021 Action Forum . *October 7 - 8, 2021, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm ET*. This international two-day virtual event, led by the Foundation for Social Connection, will build off the 2020 Action Forum and Commitments to Action and help to raise the visibility of the social isolation and loneliness crisis, identify key innovations, promote policy solutions, and spur global and nationwide organizational commitments to action. Register [here](#).

Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum– *Friday, November 19, 2021, 2:00 pm ET*. The National Center for Equitable Care for Elders presents this webinar series that will address how COVID-19 has impacted health centers across the country and the special populations they serve. The first session was held on September 24, and future dates for this four-part series are January 28, 2022, and March 25, 2022. Register [here](#).

Conference on Caregiving Research – March 3 -4, 2022. The Center for Research, Training, and Dissemination of Family Support for People with Disabilities Across the Life Course is hosting the Second Biennial Conference on Caregiving Research in Pittsburgh, PA. The theme for the conference is Building Bridges: Advancing Family Caregiving Research Across the Lifespan. National leaders in caregiving research, policy, and practice across the lifespan will come together to discuss the community, clinical and policy needs of family caregivers. More information [here](#).

Request for Proposals – TFAH's Age-Friendly Public Health Initiative Evaluation

TFAH is pleased to provide an opportunity to evaluate our AFPHS project. The project start date is November 1, 2021 and the evaluation should be completed by March 31, 2023. For more information about this opportunity, you can access the RFP [here](#).

Funding Opportunity – Request for Technical Assistance: Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Training

The National Association of County and City Health Officials, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Health Quality and Promotion, has announced a new opportunity for local health departments (LHDs) to build infection prevention and control (IPC) capacity through partnership with Association for

Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology Consulting Services. The goal of this is to enhance IPC capacity in LHDs so they can better respond to infection threats, such as COVID-19 and healthcare-associated infections, in long-term care facilities. LHDs will receive technical assistance from a locally-based board-certified Infection Preventionist. The deadline for submitting requests for technical assistance is Friday, October 1st. More information on this opportunity can be found [here](#).

Resources:

COVID-19

New Issue Brief on Leveraging Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act
[In a new issue brief by Milbank Memorial Fund](#), Health Management Associates' Madeleine Shea and Aaron Tripp provide an overview of key direct and indirect American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provisions that could be leveraged to support older adults. A framework to assist state government officials as they refine their plans to incorporate various strands of ARPA support is also included.

The Impact of the Pandemic on Social Isolation and Loneliness

Older adults across the country have struggled with **[pandemic isolation and the overwhelming feeling of loneliness](#)** due to decreased social engagement opportunities. Results from a survey by the AARP Foundation and the United Health Foundation found that those over age 50 went a month or more without human interaction. Lower income older adults and women are more likely to mention social isolation and loneliness.

Older Adults want Health Workers Vaccinated

Results from the National Poll on Healthy Aging found that **[80% of adults age 50 to 80 believe health care professionals should receive the COVID-19 vaccine](#)**. Some additional key findings from this survey note that views differed by race and ethnicity - 5% of Black respondents, 57% of white respondents and 65% of Hispanic respondents favored a vaccine requirement for health care workers. In addition, 72% of 65- to 80-year-olds said health care workers should be required to take the vaccine, compared with 52% of 50- to 64-year-olds.

Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly Quickly Pivot

The COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity for Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to provide creative solutions for home-based care. **[Altarum evaluated three-quarters of PACE sites nationwide](#)** to understand how they were able to respond quickly to safely provide care for their participants. Using both qualitative and quantitative methods, PACE outcomes were compared to those of similar beneficiaries who received care outside of the program to examine the potential to expand some helpful adaptations to other parts of the long-term care system. The full report will be available soon.

Additional Resources

Recordings Available from the 2021 Healthy Aging Symposium

All of the **[sessions from the 2021 Healthy Aging Symposium](#)** are available for viewing until September 2022. Co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and Trust for America's Health, this symposium brought together national researchers, state and local health officials, and policymakers from across the United States to share their work and lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thoughts on the Villages Retirement Community

The Villages in Florida is a 55 and older retirement community that attracts older adults from around the country. But Chairman Paul Irving of the Center for the Future of Aging considers the benefits to older adults of living in a multi-generational, more racially and ethnically diverse community in this **[article](#)**. Examples of such living options are provided including university-based retirement communities.

New Issue Brief on Expanding Paid Leave Plan

Developed by the National Partnership for Women & Families, **Our Aging, Caring Nation: Why A U.S. Paid Leave Plan Must Provide More Than Time to Care for New Children** examines the coming increase in caregiving needs in the United States and the lack of access to paid family and medical leave making it challenging for aging individuals to receive adequate care. The brief also notes several key findings, including the projection that “Alzheimer’s disease among people ages 65 and older is projected to double from six million to nearly 13 million by 2050, increasing health care and long-term care costs from \$355 billion a year in 2021 to more than \$1.1 trillion in 2050.”

Blog Highlights Obstacles and Opportunities for Addressing Social Determinants of Health

It has become widely understood that addressing social determinants of health (SDOH) is critical to improving health and health equity. There is, however, a lack of rigorous research evidence that demonstrates the effects of SODH interventions. **A recent Journal of the American Medical Association blog** calls for more data sharing and collaboration to address this lack of research.

Socially Isolated Older Adults at Higher Risk after Hospitalization Results from a study by researchers at the University of Maryland, Baltimore and Yale School of Medicine found that social isolation among older adults following an intensive-care stay was associated with an increased risk of serious disability and death. Data from 997 older Americans who were admitted to an ICU in 2011 through 2018 was examined. Despite how prevalent this issue is, researchers in this study note that there are very few effective interventions to address it.

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