

Committee on Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Youth through Health Care System Transformation

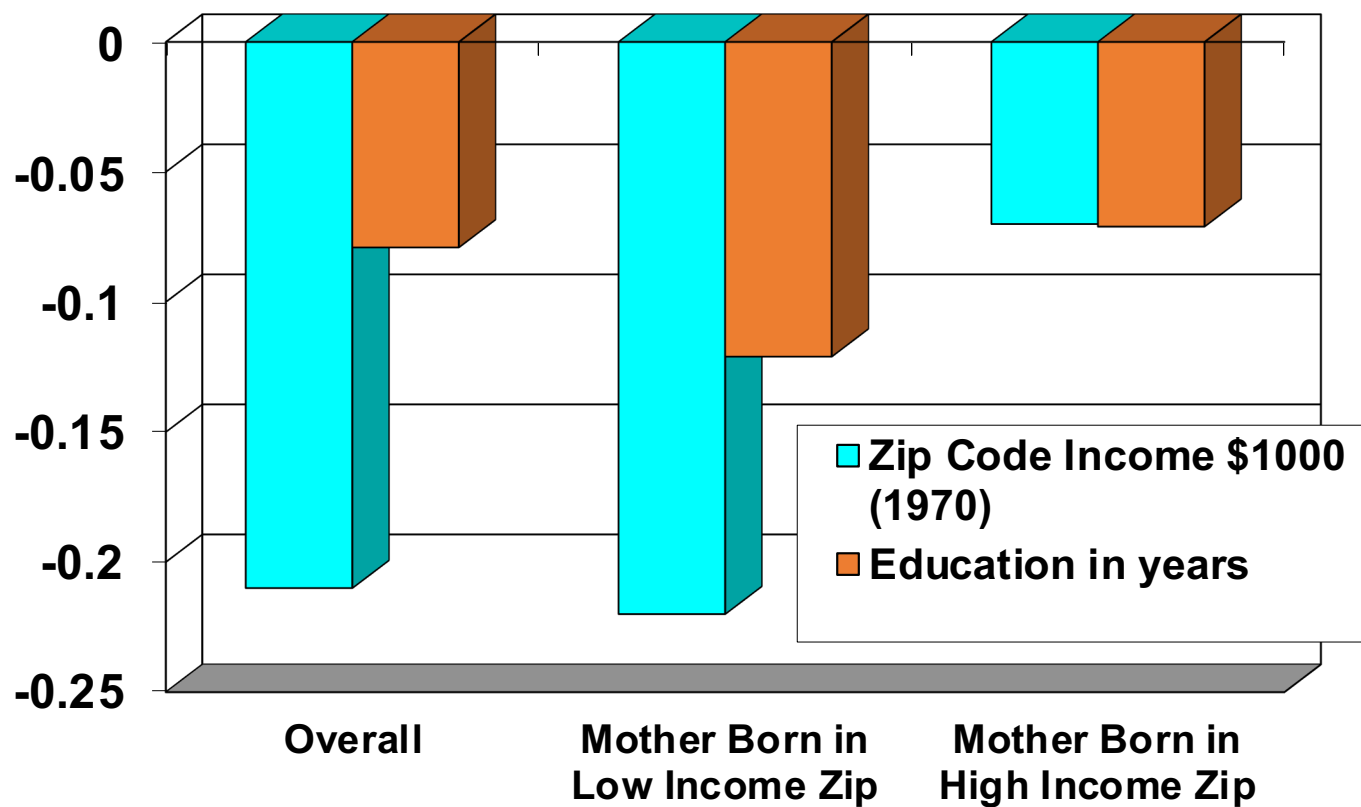
Janet Currie



Why it is important to invest in the health and wellbeing of pregnant women, children and youth?

- Health care for pregnant women, children, and youth really is an investment, this is not just rhetoric
- E.g. many large-scale sibling studies (including twin studies) link higher birthweight to better long-term outcomes
- Birthweight can be affected by health care delivery through programs such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.
- Hendren and Sprung-Keyser (2021) evaluate

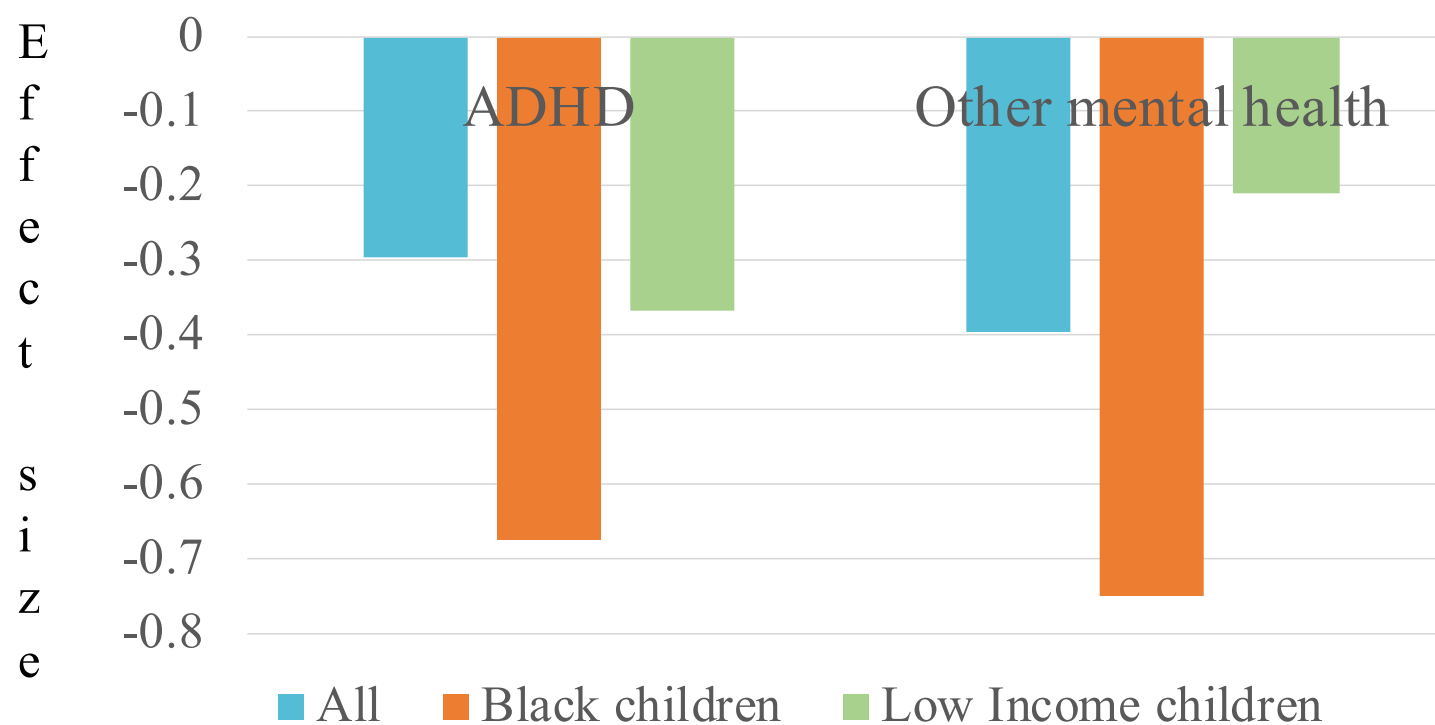
Effect of Maternal LBW on Mother's Adult Outcomes (Models comparing siblings in CA)



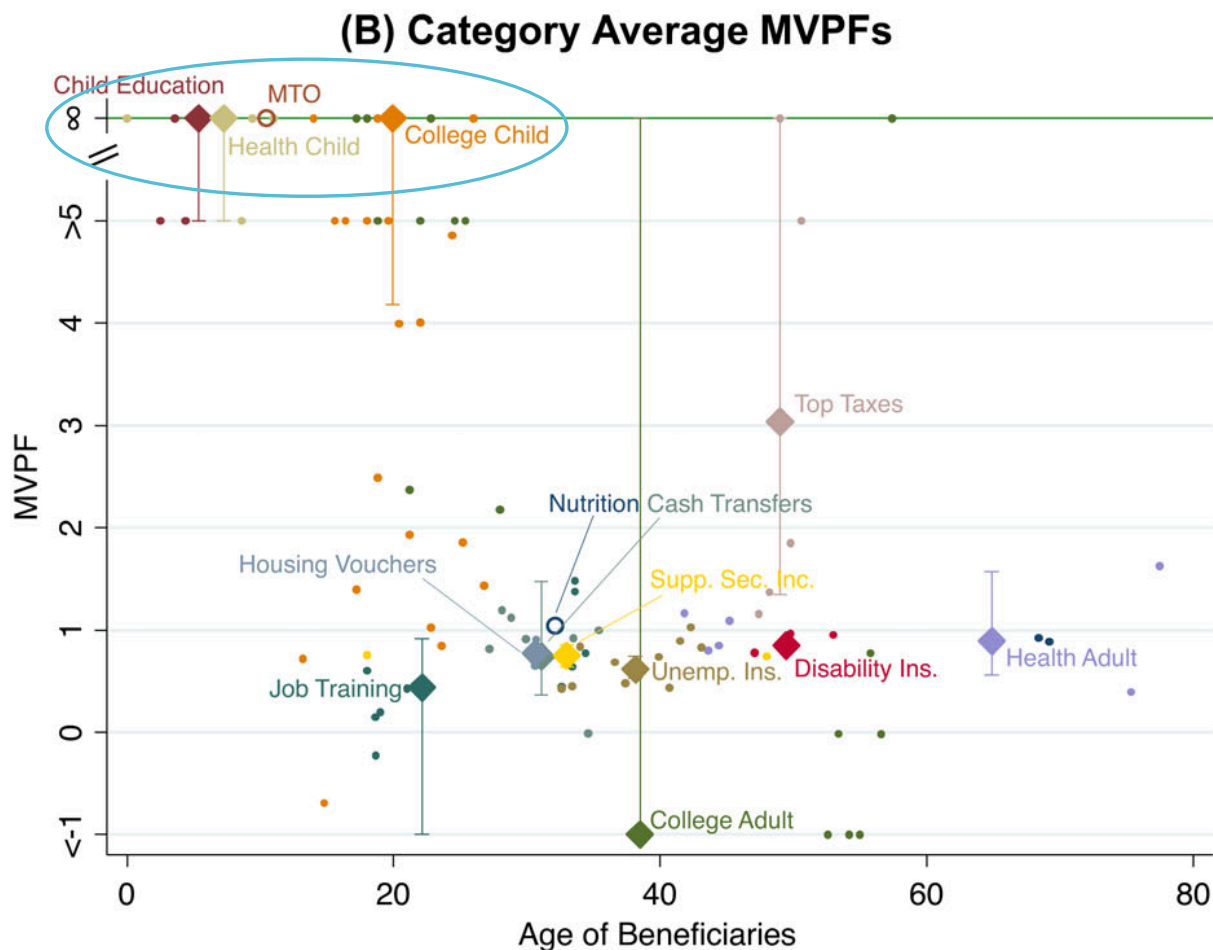
Source: Currie and Moretti, JoLE 2007.

Prenatal WIC and Incidence of Mental Health Conditions in Children 6-11

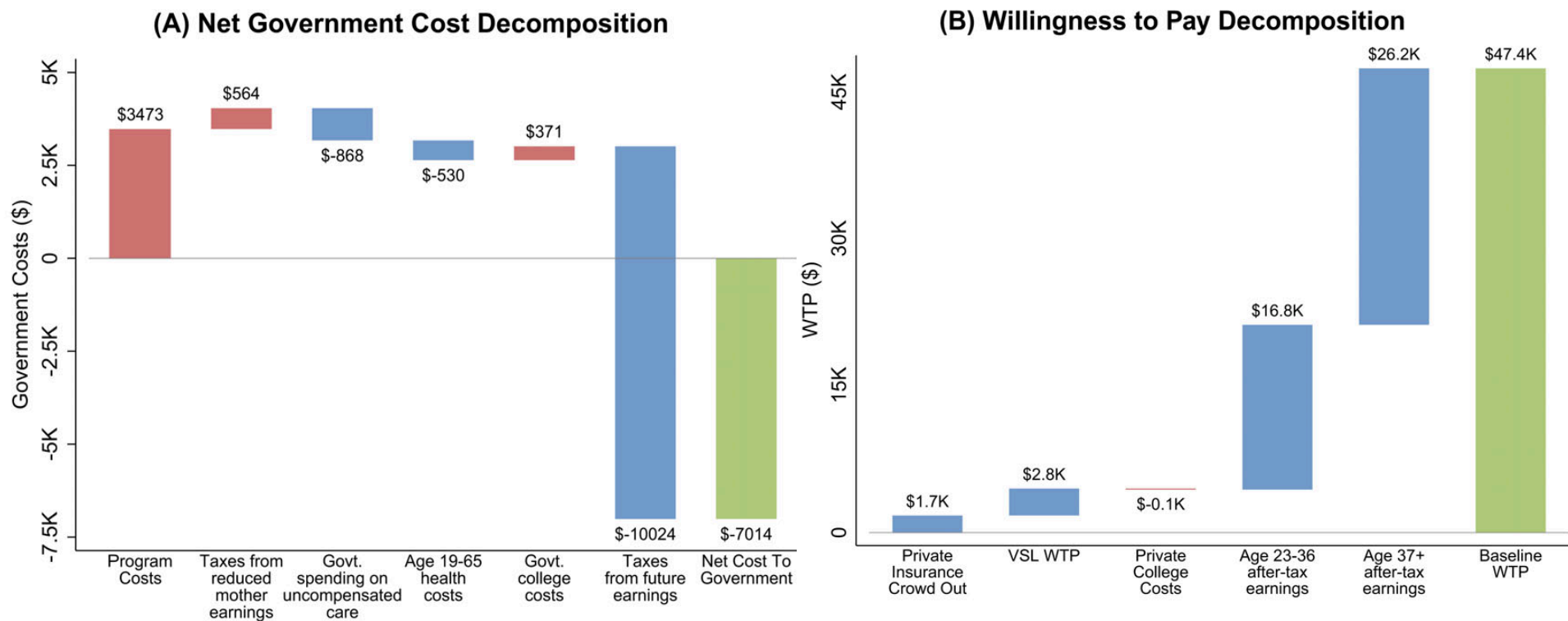
(Sibling comparisons, Chorniy and Currie, 2018a)



Hendren and Sprung-Keyser (2020) find that health programs for young children benefits to government > than costs



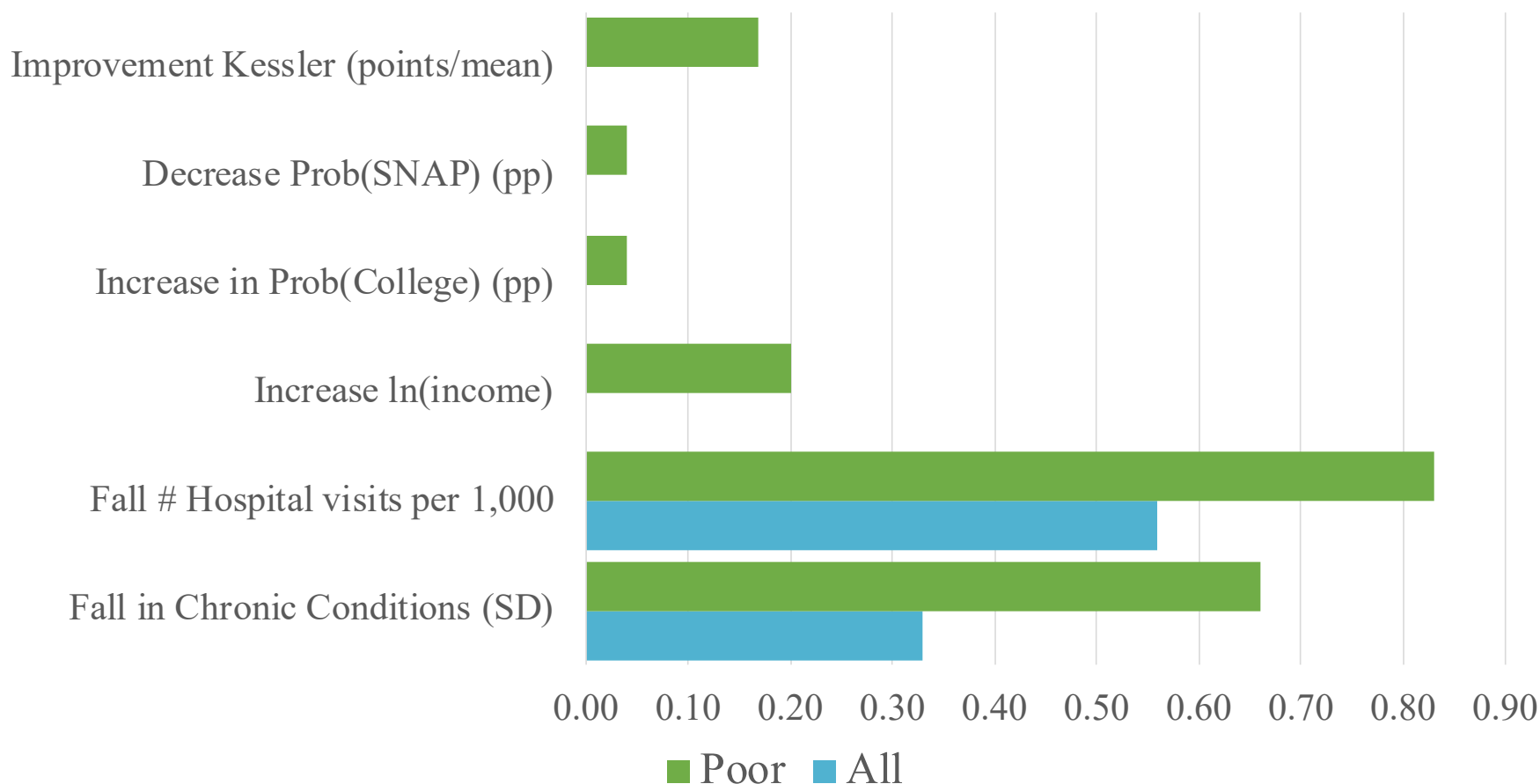
Additional Medicaid coverage of pregnant women (summarizing multiple studies)



Source: Hendren and Sprung-Keyser (2020)

Long-Term Effects Expansions in Prenatal and Infant Medicaid Coverage Improved Health in Young Adults

(Miller and Wherry, JHR 2019)



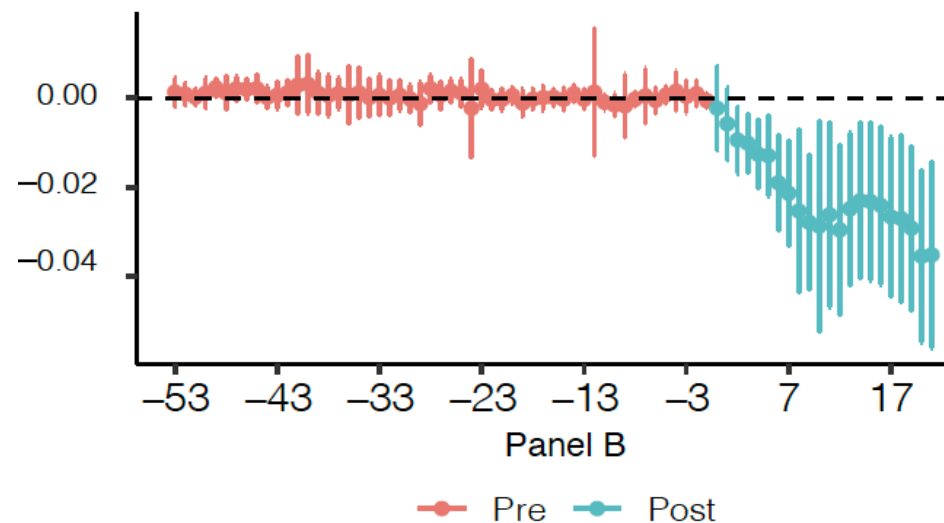
What are the goals of transformation?



What are key levers for change?

Universal
health
insurance
coverage

- Substantial progress has been achieved through the federal government.
- Includes Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, federally qualified health centers, etc. Example of COVID coverage.
- Need to be aware of backsliding by states, often through imposition of additional regulatory burdens.
- Important to encourage takeup.



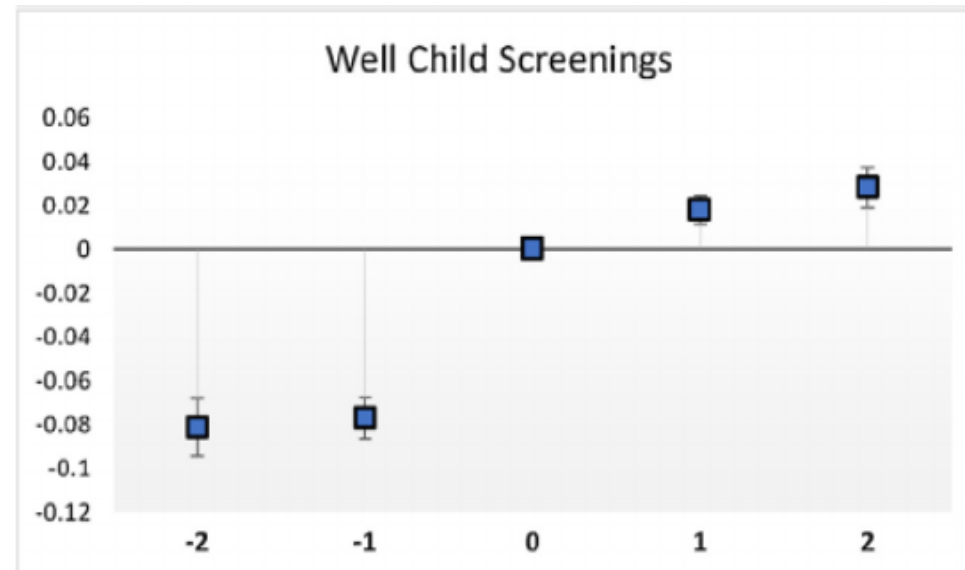
Effect of new state regulatory burdens on child Medicaid/CHIP enrollments.

Source: Arbogast et al. 2022.

What are key levers for change?

Integrate
preventive
care in health
systems

- Government programs can expand payment for preventive services, and also for public health infrastructure (tracking, community clinics).
- Can incentivize private players. E.g. through managed care contracts.
- Importance of public health education.

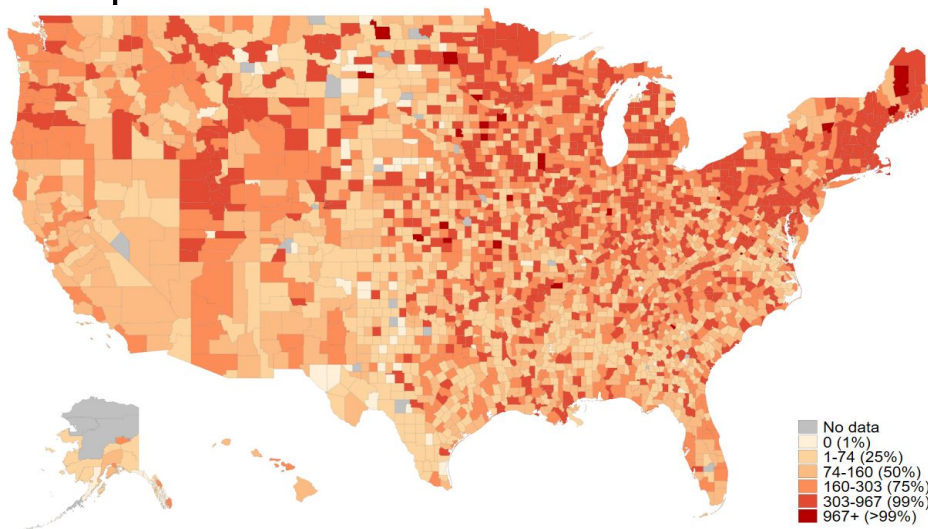


Increase in screenings for Medicaid-covered children in SC following switch to managed care.
Source: Chorniy et al. 2018.

What are key levers for change?

Align health
care delivery
with best
practice

- Much variation in practice is driven by supply-side factors including individual provider practice style.
- Professional associations, insurers, and government can work together to define best practice, track deviations from best practice, and promote training geared to best practice.
- Reforms to legal frameworks to allow tracking?
- Role of flagship providers who demonstrate best practice?
- Role of prices?

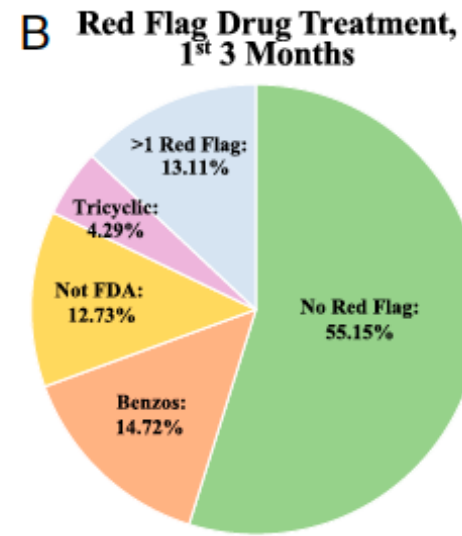
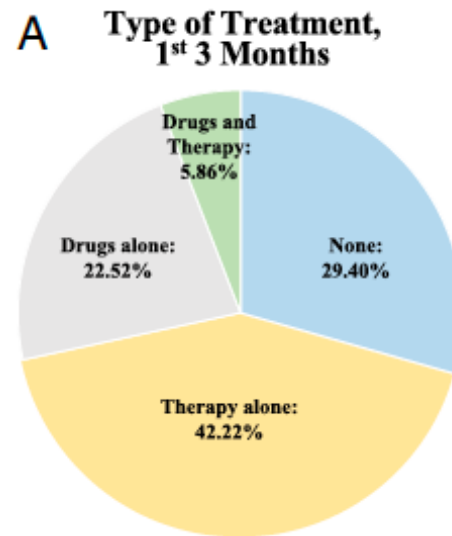


Prescriptions of Anti-depressants per 1000 people 10-19, 2014.
(data from IQVIA)

What are key levers for change?

**Eliminating
Wasteful or
Harmful Care**

- Estimated 25-30% of spending is wasted (IOM 2010; Berwick and Hackbarth, 2012; Shrank et al. 2019)
- Medical errors – IOM study from 2000 found ~98,000 deaths per year, other studies have suggested numbers as high as 440,000.
- Requires better tracking and system-level improvements.

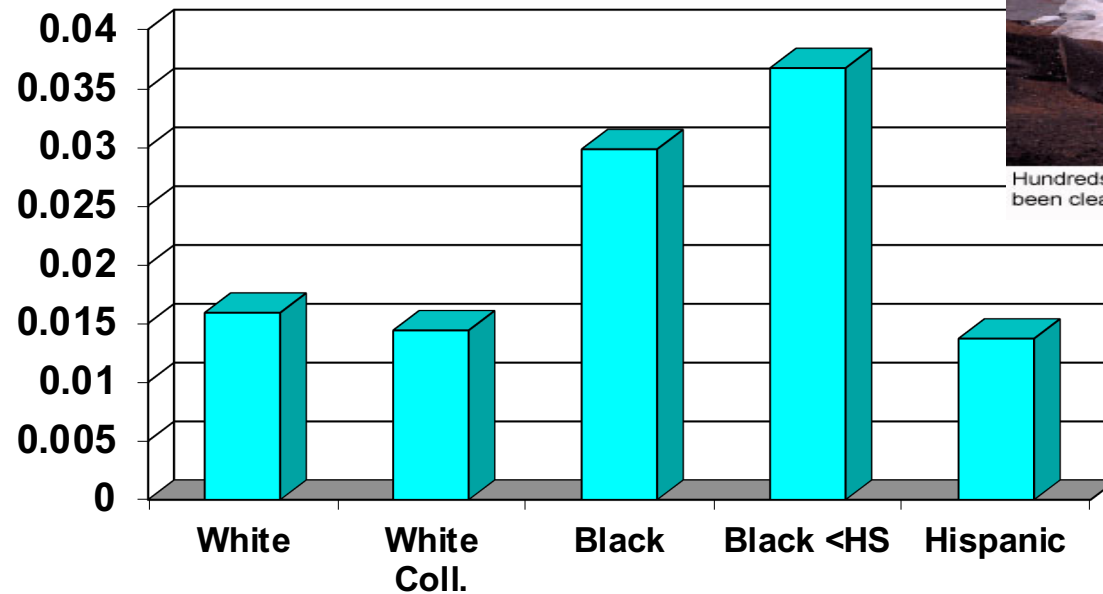


Treatment of insured children in the 1st 3 months after 1st mental health diagnosis.
Source: Cuddy and Currie, 2019

What are key levers for change?

- Need to look beyond the health care system for other drivers of health disparities.
- Important drivers are economic as well as systemic, especially patterns of residential segregation by race, ethnicity, and economic class

Achieve
Health Equity



Hundreds of orphaned toxic sites have been cleaned up by the Superfund.

Percent of pregnant women living <1.25 miles from a Superfund site in FL, MI, NJ, PA, and TX, 1989-2006
Source: Currie, 2011

Summary: Need to Consider Levers at Multiple Scales

