

Leading health system improvement

*The Washington Health Alliance brings together those who give, get and pay for health care to create a high quality, affordable system for the people of Washington state*

## With the new lens of equity, Alliance releases 2023 Community Checkup Report

### A message from Executive Director Drew Oliveira:

Since 2008, the Washington Health Alliance has been reporting on the quality of care in our state, and we continue to endeavor to add impactful insights into [the Community Checkup](#) to better help purchasers, health plans, and providers understand where they can collectively begin to tackle health care challenges.

This year we introduce [new components to understand how the neighborhood you live in can impact your health](#) and [to highlight the importance of having a primary care provider](#).

The Alliance remains committed to transparency and trusted, credible reporting on health care quality, cost, and value. Our reporting relies on a voluntary All-Payer Claims Database, covering more than 4 million Washington residents, well over 50% of the state's population having commercial insurance or Medicaid coverage. These claims, from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2021, show results from all the Accountable Communities of Health (ACH), more than 1,900 clinics, 300 medical groups, 100 hospitals, 16 health plans, and all 39 counties in Washington.

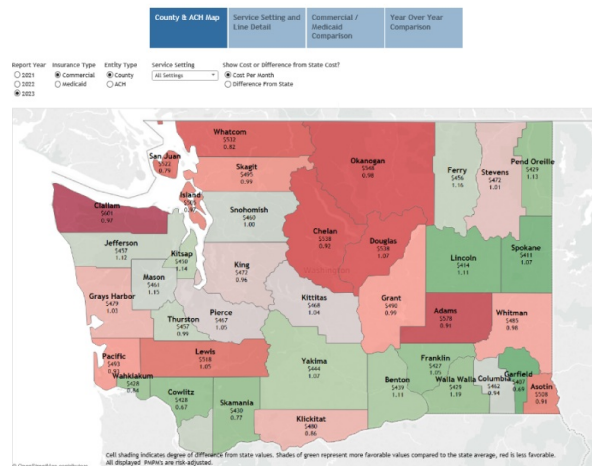
[Read the Alliance's Community Checkup highlight report.](#)

New this year, we have introduced the lens of equity to help sharpen the focus on where actions can yield tangible results. Leveraging [the Neighborhood Atlas \(the Area Deprivation Index or ADI\)](#) a tool validated by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, we are reporting for the first time that all too often our least advantaged neighborhoods receive a substantively lower quality of care.

Where you live matters. For example, if you live in a more socioeconomically disadvantaged area, you may not be receiving cancer screenings at the same rate compared to those in more privileged areas. Similarly, less than 40% of commercially insured children get appropriate well-care visits when they live in more disadvantaged locations.

[View the full Quality by Area Deprivation Index Highlight.](#)

Do you really need a primary care provider? The quick answer is yes! This is the first year we report quality results for people who have claims but do not have an attributed primary care provider (PCP). For



Washingtonians without a PCP, the ability to receive the care is significantly inadequate. For example, of commercially insured women without a PCP, only 36% receive recommended breast cancer screening. For those with a PCP, that rate can go as high as 91%, almost a three-fold difference.

[View the full Variations in Health Care Quality Highlight.](#)

Clinical care across the country was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, clinical processes and outcomes as reported by the National Committee for Quality Assurance continue to improve nationally. Unfortunately, those same measures of quality in Washington have mostly remained flat in comparison. While we aspire to rank at or above the national 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, we find ourselves below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on more than 70% of these measures. The health care system is failing Washingtonians on dozens of quality measures that could dramatically improve their health, allowing people to contribute to their communities, remain productive in their jobs and improve the affordability of care overall.

[View all five Community Checkup Highlights.](#)

It is well documented that almost half of families are having significant difficulty with the costs of healthcare. High-quality care is paramount; however, it must come at a reasonable cost. Families should not have to choose between housing, transportation, food, and healthcare. Too often, delays in care are due to the financial rationing choices that people are forced to confront. Health care value means we have a system that delivers appropriate, high-quality care at a reasonable cost that is also affordable for families. Failure to do so will further widen the care gap that most often impacts our vulnerable communities.

We all have a lot of work ahead of us to catalyze change in Washington's health care system. This must be a collective effort. It begins with everyone making a choice to change.

Sincerely,

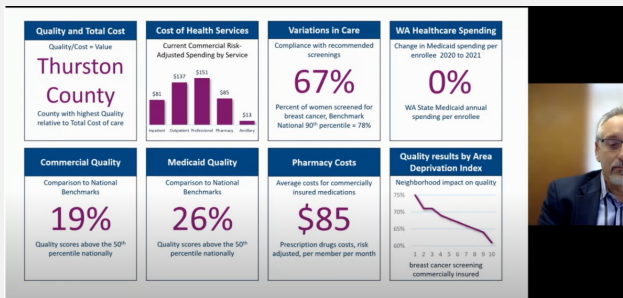
**Drew Oliveira, MD, MHA**  
Executive Director  
Washington Health Alliance

[Visit WAcommunitycheckup.org for full 2023 report](https://www.wahealthalliance.org/community-checkup)

## Examining Equity: The Community Checkup Webinar

If you were not able to attend the Alliance's webinar on March 7, we are providing a recording of the event. Executive Director Drew Oliveira joins Denise Giambalvo, the Alliance's Director of Membership Engagement & Business Strategy, and Sharon Eloranta, the Alliance's Medical Director, to discuss new insights from in the 2023 Community Checkup.

[Watch the video.](#)



Join our upcoming webinars:

**Committing to Action: Facilitators and Barriers to Achieving Equity - March 9 from 12 to 1:30 p.m.**

The Foundation for Health Care Quality, Comagine, and the Washington Health Alliance will host the first in a three-webinar series that will focus on what committing to health equity

looks like and how work aligns with other current actions to improve equity within all of Washington state. [Register here.](#)

## **Pharmacy Benefits: Identifying & Addressing Misaligned Incentives - March 29 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.**

How do you know which PBM will best serve your members? How do you know you're getting the best price? What innovators have the potential to change the market? These are the questions we'll be answering during this webinar. Join industry experts, Antonio Ciaccia and Greg Baker for a lively discussion with moderator, Denise Giambalvo. [Register here.](#)

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