

Leading health system improvement

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

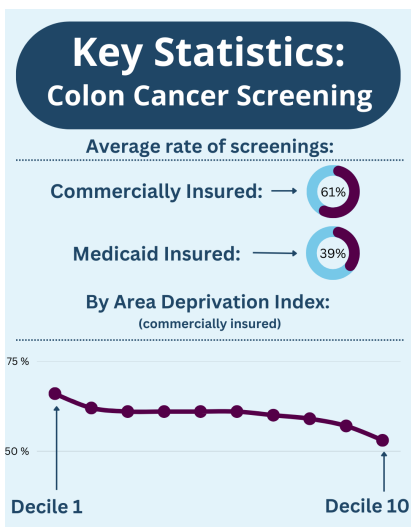
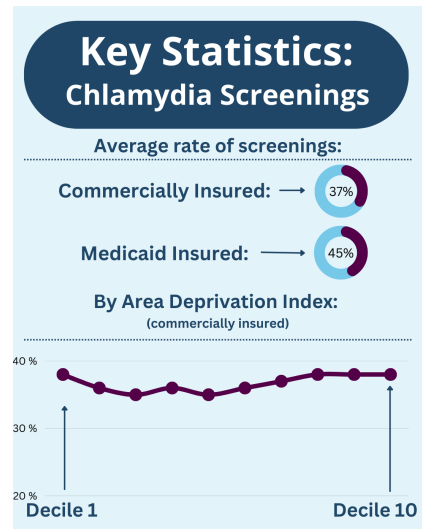
Chlamydia screenings low across Washington, but the Alliance is working to address this

For National STI Awareness month this April, the Washington Health Alliance is drawing attention to the low rates of chlamydia screenings in primary care settings. Our latest data shows that on average about 6 in 10 commercially insured women age 16 to 24 are not getting screened.

Our 2023 Community Checkup, shows the average rate for screenings for commercially insured is 37 percent. For Medicaid-insured residents, the rate increases slightly to 45 percent, but both remain well below the national 90th percentile. (The measure tracks screening for women age 16 to 24 who report being sexually active.)

So what is the Alliance doing? Aware of the declining screening rates, the Alliance's Quality Improvement Committee has taken up the issue and is working on how to increase the rates.

Read more about chlamydia screenings.



Colon cancer screening gaps exist in Washington. What can we do to change that?

For colorectal cancer, preventative screenings should be easy, affordable, and accessible but on average in Washington state, roughly 4 out of 10 commercially-insured individuals are not receiving these tests. That gap worsens for those covered by Medicaid, Alliance data shows.

Recognizing these low average screening rates, the Alliance outlines steps that can be taken to

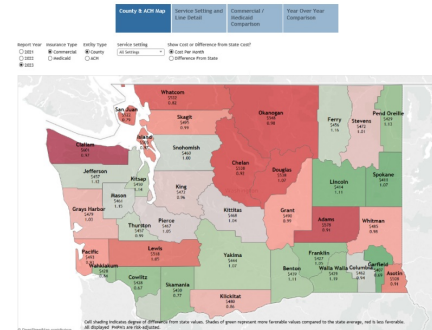
ensure more people are getting key preventative testing.

[Read more about colon cancer screenings.](#)

In case you missed it:

Alliance releases 2023 Community Checkup with new equity lens

Last month, the Alliance released its latest Community Checkup report, providing an unparalleled look at health care quality and cost across Washington state. New this year, the Alliance incorporated the Neighborhood Atlas, also known as the Area Deprivation Index, to show for the first time how an individual's advantage or disadvantage can impact the quality of care they receive in Washington.



[Explore the Community Checkup report.](#)

Upcoming Alliance Events

Examining Equity: Total Cost of Care with Neighborhood Atlas

May 16 from 9 to 10 a.m. PDT - Virtual

Building on our focus on health care equity, the Washington Health Alliance will release its Total Cost of Care analysis with Neighborhood Atlas, also known as the Area Deprivation Index, which is a tool validated by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. With this tool, we are able to report how the cost of care shifts based on a neighborhood's advantage or disadvantage.

This first-ever analysis continues the conversation started in March when the Alliance released its Community Checkup. The webinar is free and open to all.

[Register here.](#)

Promoting Cessation: How to Address Tobacco Use in Washington State

May 30 from 10 to 11 a.m. PDT - Virtual

According to the CDC, cigarette smoking is still the leading cause of preventable death and disability in the United States; in Washington state 1 in 5 deaths are caused by cigarettes, including secondhand smoke, and 6 of the leading ten causes of death are related to tobacco use. What's even more worrisome is that the harm caused by tobacco use disproportionately affects marginalized populations.

Purchasers, health plans, providers, and consumers all play roles in the ongoing work to

reduce tobacco/nicotine use and to help users quit. The Washington Health Alliance, under a contract with the Washington State Department of Health, is offering a webinar on the impact of tobacco use and the status of health plan coverage of cessation modalities on April 30. Plan to attend to learn about how you can improve health and health equity related to tobacco use in Washington State!

Guest speakers include Thomas DeCato, MD, Professor of Pulmonology, Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine Washington State University.

[Register here.](#)

Examining the Complexities of REL Data

June 1 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. PDT - Virtual

Join Foundation for Health Care Quality in collaboration with Washington Health Alliance and Comagine Health in the second webinar of a three-part series focused on health equity! In this webinar, speakers will discuss the ethical and pragmatic challenges to collecting data on Race, Equity, and Language (REL); data storage and prep for analysis; and how data may be used to inform actions to advance equity.

[Register here.](#)

Bolstering Mental Health in the Post-Pandemic Hybrid Workplace

June 14 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. PDT - Downtown Seattle and Virtual

“Of the 410,000 adults in Washington who did not receive needed mental health care, 36.9% did not because of cost.” - National Alliance on Mental Illness (based on 2021 data.)

The focus of this educational program will be on the state of mental health in Washington and what benefits employers are providing to best meet the needs of their members.

Guest Speakers include:

- Nancy Board, Co-Founder/COO, Global Women 4 Wellbeing and Clinical Services Manager at the WA State Employee Assistance Program
- Sarai Childs, Executive Director, Business Health Trust
- Bill Dinger, Head of Caregiver Benefits and Wellbeing, Providence Healthcare

[Register to attend in-person.](#)

[Register to attend virtually.](#)

Welcome to new member: Abbott Diabetes Care

As a global leader in diabetes care, Abbott is constantly working to deliver the highest quality products and unwavering support to their customers. Consistent and accurate glucose monitoring is the foundation of any diabetes management plan so they've committed to continuous improvement in the way patients and professionals measure, track and



analyze glucose levels.

Learn more about Abbott Diabetes Care.

The Alliance is moving.

After many years at 600 Stewart St., we are moving our office a block away to the Tower Building. As of May 1, our new address will be 1809 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1609, Seattle, WA 98101.

Our members can be the best ambassadors for our work. If you know someone who would like to learn more about membership in the Alliance, contact Executive Director Drew Oliveira at doliveira@wahealthalliance.org.



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