

## HAVI ADVOCACY UPDATE: ADVANCES IN MEDICAID

### States are using Medicaid to support violence prevention services

In 2020, President Biden announced that Medicaid can, and should, utilize the program to reimburse for community violence programs such as hospital-based violence intervention. Shortly thereafter, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services outlined numerous pathways states could take to utilize this benefit. Five states have now utilized this benefit.

- Connecticut created a Community Violence Prevention Services benefit allowing violence prevention professionals to receive reimbursement for frontline work with patients.
- California integrated Medicaid violence prevention services with its community health worker program.
- Illinois developed a team-based model to support Violence Prevention Community Support Team Services.
- Oregon and Maryland are currently developing benefits to support survivors of violence.

### Why does this matter?

Medicaid is the largest public insurance program in the United States.[1] In 2018, approximately 65 million Americans received their health benefits through the program.

- For violently injured patients, Medicaid is a lifeline. Research indicates that among victims of gunshot wounds, nearly 2 out of 3 patients are either on Medicaid or uninsured.[2] This coverage is critical as victims of violence face significant health care needs both before and after injury.
- While the physical wounds are most obvious after a violent injury, the psychological and psychosocial needs are just as great. Fortunately, Medicaid provides a comprehensive benefits package to meet those needs as well.
- Medicaid can support survivors of community violence by reimbursing the work of Violence Prevention Professionals (VPPs), who provide comprehensive wraparound services to victims of violent injury.

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### How can my state utilize Medicaid to support violence prevention efforts?

The Medicaid program acts as a partnership between the federal and state governments. As a result, states have flexibility in which benefits they can add. Because Medicaid violence prevention benefits are new, individual states must act to add the benefit.

- Many state Medicaid agencies can act on their own to add VPP services to support violence prevention work. Starting a conversation with your state Medicaid office is a good first step.
- Numerous states have passed laws to create their Medicaid benefits. Supportive lawmakers have crafted bills that have passed with strong bipartisan support.

### Where can I learn more?

- The HAVI's website offers issue papers, fact sheets, and other information to learn more about [Resources on Public Funding for Community Violence Intervention](#).
- The National Association of Medicaid Directors provides an [easy-to-navigate directory](#) to learn more about your state's plan
- For HAVI members, join the [Policy Working Group](#) for regular updates, learning opportunities, and advocacy opportunities

[1] <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/total-population/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

[2] Coupet, E. Karp D, Wiebe DJ, Delgado K. Shift in U.S. Payer responsibility for the acute care of violent injuries after the Affordable Care Act: Implications for Prevention. American Journal of Emergency Medicine. 2018.