Editorial

The Growing Impact and Reach of JAMA Health Forum

John Z. Ayanian, MD, MPP

As a relatively new peer-reviewed journal that launched in May 2021, JAMA Health Forum has achieved an important recognition of its growing impact, reach, and contributions to health policy and health services research. After the journal was accepted for indexing in the Emerging Sources Citation Index of the Clarivate Web of Science in 2022, the Clarivate Journal Citation Reports recently released the first journal impact factor for JAMA Health Forum, which at 11.5 ranks first among journals in the Health Policy & Services Emerging Sources Citation Index category.

Contributing to this initial journal impact factor, 4 highly cited studies published in 2021 are strong examples of the role JAMA Health Forum has played in bringing rigorous COVID-19–related policy research to light. These studies assessed patterns of US health insurance coverage during the pandemic, changes in ambulatory care and telemedicine visits, state lotteries to promote COVID-19 vaccinations, and naloxone prescribing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Altmetric scores provide another measure of the broad reach of articles published in JAMA Health Forum, representing the attention articles have received in news outlets and social media. From July 2022 through June 2023, JAMA Health Forum published 20 of the 50 articles with the highest Altmetric scores among 11 leading health policy journals, including 3 of the top 4 articles. These top articles included studies of long-term post–COVID-19 condition complications reported in insurance data, ransomware attacks on US health care organizations, and changes in health care spending and utilization when private equity firms acquire physician practices. Another widely discussed study focused on structural barriers faced in the medical school admissions process by prospective American Indian or Alaska Native, Black, and Hispanic applicants.

Articles published in JAMA Health Forum during the first half of 2023 have already been viewed or downloaded nearly 500,000 times through June, including a study with more than 50,000 views. Other widely viewed studies during this time period evaluated the costs and benefits of a program to prevent falls among hospitalized patients, assessed how the length of primary care visits is associated with potentially inappropriate prescribing, and simulated Medicare drug price negotiations under the Inflation Reduction Act. From practical implementation science to timely federal policy questions, JAMA Health Forum articles attract an expansive range of readers, including clinicians, health system leaders, and policymakers.

The editors of JAMA Health Forum would also like to share with readers some notable recent transitions. We welcome Elizabeth Stuart, PhD, to the journal as a Statistical Editor. Maureen (Shawn) Kennedy, MA, RN, has succeeded Rebecca Voelker, MSJ, as Contributing Editor for the widely read JAMA Forum section of the journal, and Anna Lewis, MSW, has succeeded Khrysta Baig, MSPH, as the journal’s Editorial Intern. In addition to thanking Ms Voelker and Ms Baig for their contributions, we also thank Dave Chokshi, MD, MSc, who recently concluded his service as a JAMA Forum author.

As the US prepares for the next presidential and congressional election in 2024, issues related to health policy are likely to play a prominent role, including Medicare and Medicaid policy, reproductive health care, prescription drug costs, the opioid epidemic, and racial inequities in health outcomes. The editors of JAMA Health Forum are pleased to join the editors of JAMA and the other JAMA Network journals in calling for rigorous original research studies and evidence-based Viewpoints to inform candidates and voters about key issues in health and health care that may be pivotal in the federal campaigns and election next year.

Related to the election and more broadly, we invite authors to submit their best work on health policy, health care delivery, and public health to JAMA Health Forum to reach the broad audiences of
the journal and the JAMA Network as a whole, as detailed in the journal’s information for authors.19 We also invite readers to provide feedback on published articles by posting comments on them via the journal website or by emailing the editors at jamahealthforum@jamanetwork.org.

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Corresponding Author: John Z. Ayanian, MD, MPP, Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, University of Michigan, 2800 Plymouth Rd, NCRB Bldg 16, Room 440, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 (ayanian@umich.edu).

Author Affiliations: Editor, JAMA Health Forum; Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

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REFERENCES


