

## In This Issue:

### Health Policy

Omar A. Khan, MD, MHS<sup>1</sup> and Timothy E. Gibbs, MPH<sup>2</sup>

1. Editor-in-Chief, Delaware Journal of Public Health

2. Publisher, Delaware Journal of Public Health

Our last issue on health policy was in December 2019 ([Health Policy: The Road to Value-Based Care](#)) – just before the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted so much of our world and challenged the policies and interventions that had been in place for decades. For those of us who have lived through a few pandemics (think H1N1, SARS, and HIV/AIDS), it started off feeling like a rehash of the past – but proved to be far more challenging with the addition of politics – quite a strange bedfellow.

This issue, four-plus years later, introduces new thinking and progress to the mix. Health policy and public health improvement are intricately connected, as policies set the guidelines and priorities that shape the health of a population. Policies determine resource allocation, and influence the funding and support for public health programs and interventions. Effective health policies establish regulations and standards, ensuring the quality of healthcare services and providing a framework for disease prevention.

Additionally, policies can address social determinants of health, influencing factors like education and employment that impact overall well-being. By creating an environment conducive to public health goals, policies play a pivotal role in driving improvements, promoting health equity, and fostering a healthier society. In essence, the relationship between health policy and public health improvement lies in the ability of policies to shape and direct efforts towards a healthier and more resilient population.

Topics in this issue include health literacy, workforce development, primary care, and a historic reflection on health policy in the US. With special permission, we are also including a reprint on Community Choice Demonstration from the U.S. Department of Health and Urban Development.

We also are leveraging this issue to publish updated information from the Delaware Health Force Initiative about our healthcare workforce, and some of the policy recommendations forthcoming from that body of work.

Policies are intended to serve the population, and thus should reflect health and wellbeing in their entirety, not just in policies relating to health. Policies also must be guided by ethics and social justice, and seek to make meaningful change in the lives of everyone, and when necessary, redress wrongs which also happen in an evolving society.

We remain committed to the health of our local and global population, and we hope in some small way the Journal and all its theme issues are a meaningful contribution towards that goal.

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