



# Overview of 2022 Study Priorities

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## **Studies Approved by JCHC for 2022**

JCHC Members directed staff to start the following four studies in 2022. These are listed in priority order based on the rank choice voting of Members prior to the December, 2021 meeting. These studies are already underway by staff. Approved study resolutions are in your meeting materials.

1. Effectiveness of local health department structure and financing
2. Access and affordability of assisted living facilities
3. Strategies to reduce unnecessary emergency department utilization
4. Provider data sharing to improve quality of care

## **Potential Studies for Consideration during 2022 Session**

Six study topics were referred to the JCHC through study resolutions, section 1 bills, or referrals from Committee chairs during the 2022 session. Taking up any of these topics during 2022 will require dropping an existing study (with the exception of the local health department topic).

### Local health department structure, financing, and COVID lessons learned (SJ14, HJ52)

- **Major study questions**
  - Are local health departments structured and financed effectively?
  - Are local health departments performing effectively?
  - What lessons can be learned from the COVID response to inform future public health emergency preparedness?
- **Workload:** High
- **Strategic Objectives:** Accessibility, Equity, Quality

### Vertically integrated health insurance carriers (SB204)

- **Major study questions**
  - Are vertically integrated insurance carriers paying affiliated providers differently from unaffiliated providers?
  - What are the potential risks to consumer protections and competitive health care markets that could occur with vertically integrated carriers?
  - What can Virginia do to monitor these potential risks to mitigate adverse impacts?
- **Workload:** Medium
- **Strategic Objectives:** Affordability, Accessibility, Quality

Coverage for social determinants of health through Medicaid (HJ5, SJ42)

- **Major study questions**
  - What types of non-medical services or other interventions have demonstrated effectiveness at improving health through addressing social determinants of health?
  - What federal authority exists to pay for these services through state Medicaid programs?
- **Workload:** Medium
- **Strategic Objectives:** Quality and Equity

Addressing eating disorders in Virginia (SJ11)

- **Major study questions**
  - What is the prevalence of eating disorders in Virginia and the cost of treatment?
  - Is the education and training on eating disorders adequate for school staff and medical clinicians?
  - What policies could Virginia implement to improve the education, prevention, detection, and treatment of eating disorders?
- **Workload:** Medium
- **Strategic Objectives:** Accessibility and Quality

Prescription drug price benchmarking (HB478)

- **Major study questions**
  - How has the cost of prescription drugs changed in Virginia?
  - What policies can states adopt to monitor and control the cost of prescription drugs?
- **Workload:** Medium
- **Strategic Objectives:** Affordability and Accessibility

Coverage for obesity services through Medicaid (HB1098)

- **Major study questions**
  - Are there additional obesity prevention or treatment services that could be covered by Virginia's Medicaid program?
  - What is the estimated cost for adding these services?
- **Workload:** Low
- **Strategic Objectives:** Accessibility and Quality
- **NOTE:** This bill passed and JCHC is required to address it by November 1, 2023