

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES

Louisiana Medicaid has announced that six researchers at UNO, LSUHS and LSUHSC are this year's Public University Partnership Program (PUPP) funding recipients. Over \$1.14M is designated in Medicaid federal funding for research to identify opportunities within Medicaid for program development and policymaking.

These strategic partnerships will allow LDH to leverage Louisiana's resources of scientists, researchers and other experts to provide evidence-based insights to improve Medicaid health services.

The six research recipients are:

- **Shreya Banerjee, PhD**, PI - University of New Orleans, *"Enhancing Autism Care and Support through AI-Powered Personalized Behavior Insights in Children with ASD."*
- **Bridgette Egan, MD**, PI – Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (NO), *"Project ED-HOPE: Evidence-driven hospital overdose prevention effort."*
- **Claudia Leonardi, PhD**, PI – Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (NO), *"Investigating Geographical and Temporal Trends in Mental Health-related Emergency Department Visits in the Louisiana Medicaid Population."*
- **Nicholas Mosca, DDS, DrPH**, PI – Louisiana State University School of Dentistry *"Improving the Quality of Dental-Medical Integration to Prevent Dental Caries for Medicaid Members."*
- **John Vanchiere, MD, PhD**, PI – Louisiana State University Health Science Center at Shreveport *"Optimizing PreP for Underserved Populations in Louisiana"*
- **Seth Vignes, MD**, PI – Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (NO) *"A mixed methods analysis of injection-related infections in Louisiana Medicaid Patients."*

These six will join eleven existing projects with topics that range from strategies to improve outcomes for diabetes device use to assessing the use of technology for autism therapy to mapping the availability and demand of health-related social needs in school-aged children.

After researchers complete their project, they develop a research brief distributed to relevant agencies and other interested parties. This also helps other researchers and policymakers by using Louisiana-based results, which may be timelier and more actionable than national reporting. Three studies were completed in June 2024, and an additional two are projected for completion in December 2024.