



ACADEMIC RIGOR ON A LEGISLATURE’S TIMELINE

The California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP), drawing on multi-disciplinary faculty and researchers based at the University of California, provides the California Legislature with **timely, independent, and rigorous evidence-based analyses** of introduced health insurance benefits-related legislation. Most frequently, CHBRP analyzes proposed health insurance benefit mandates (e.g. mandates to cover a test, treatment, or service such as continuous glucose monitors).

Four Core Components of CHBRP Analyses

Background and Policy Context: <i>What’s the history and status of this topic?</i>	Medical Effectiveness: <i>Does the test, treatment, or service work?</i>	Cost Impacts: <i>How much will it cost?</i>	Public Health Impacts: <i>How will it affect population-level health?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How might this legislation interact with current state and federal law? • What condition(s) does this bill attempt to treat? • Are there disparities in the condition or current access to treatment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate the cost impacts on coverage and utilization in the first year of implementation • Examine impact on insurance premiums, cost-sharing, and total expenditures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate the cost impacts on coverage and utilization in the first year of implementation • Examine impact on insurance premiums, cost-sharing, and total expenditures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess impacts on specific population groups and social determinants of health • Estimate long-term costs and benefits

CHBRP’s Analyses and Methods. CHBRP has completed analyses of 161 bills from the California Legislature, all available on our website. Each analysis is completed within a 60-day period. This timeline ensures that reports are submitted before the Legislature formally considers the bill. A typical report summarizes scientific evidence regarding the medical effectiveness of clinical interventions relevant to the bill and estimates the marginal cost and public health impacts in the first year of implementation.

To ensure objectivity, CHBRP’s analyses do not offer policy recommendations. CHBRP’s work is intended to support policymakers in their decision-making.

History and Structure. CHBRP was initially authorized by statute in 2002. The state funds CHBRP’s work through a small annual assessment on health plans and insurers in California.

CHBRP is comprised of a small team of staff at the University of California, Berkeley, who coordinate the contributions of its Faculty Task Force, researchers, librarians, and a contracted actuarial firm. The task force, comprised of senior faculty, is drawn from several University of California campuses.

A strict conflict of interest policy ensures that no financial or other interests bias the analyses. Experts in pertinent areas of clinical practice and research are retained to advise CHBRP on each bill. Guidance and review of CHBRP analyses is also provided by a National Advisory Council, made up of health care and health policy experts from outside of California.

CHBRP’s Other Publications. CHBRP regularly produces and updates various resources, as well as issue and policy briefs, all of which are available on our website.