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The Dynamics of Behavioral Health Funding: A Critical Realist Commentary

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Abstract

The purpose of this commentary is to examine behavioral health funding, allocation practices, and the consequential implications for counties in California and across the United States. Using a critical realist perspective this paper considers distribution mechanisms, formulas and criteria used, including need-based metrics, population size and historical allocations in the context of behavioral health funding. Critical realism is suggested as an appropriate commentary framework to illustrate how horizontal competition manifests among counties, and to provide insights into the associated impacts for behavioral health programming.

Conference Track

Public Policy and Public Administration