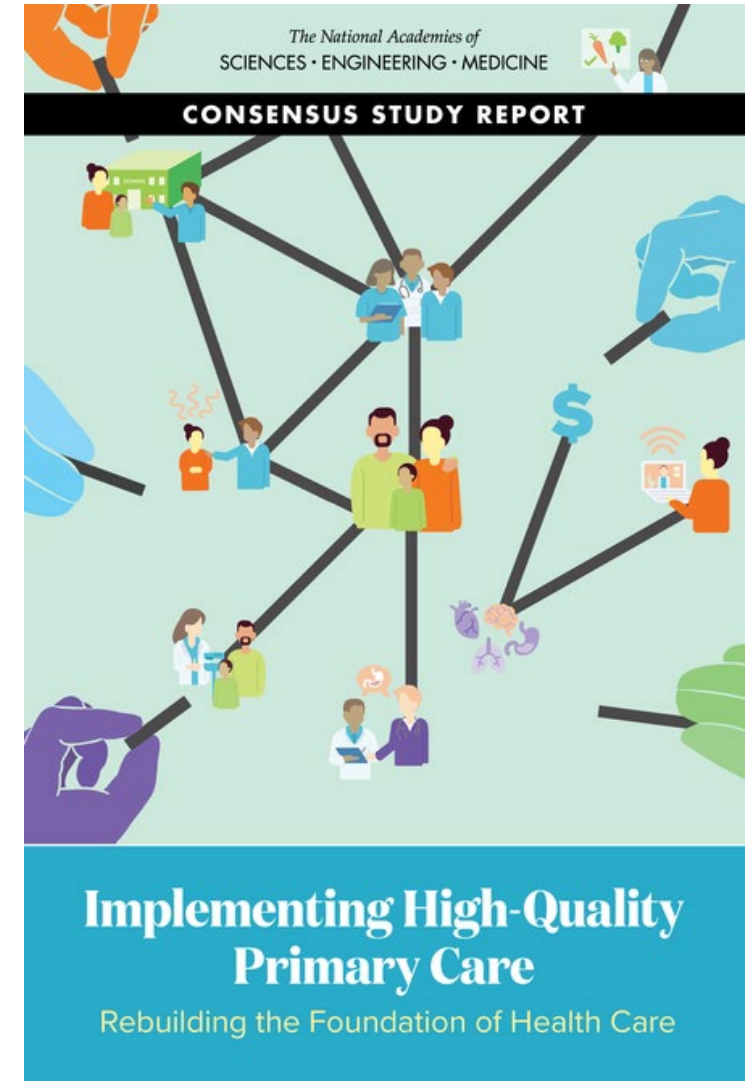# Agenda Item VII: HCAI Health of Primary Care in California Snapshot

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Margareta Brandt, MPH, Assistant Deputy Director, HCAI;
Alyssa Borders, PhD, Research Scientist III, HCAI

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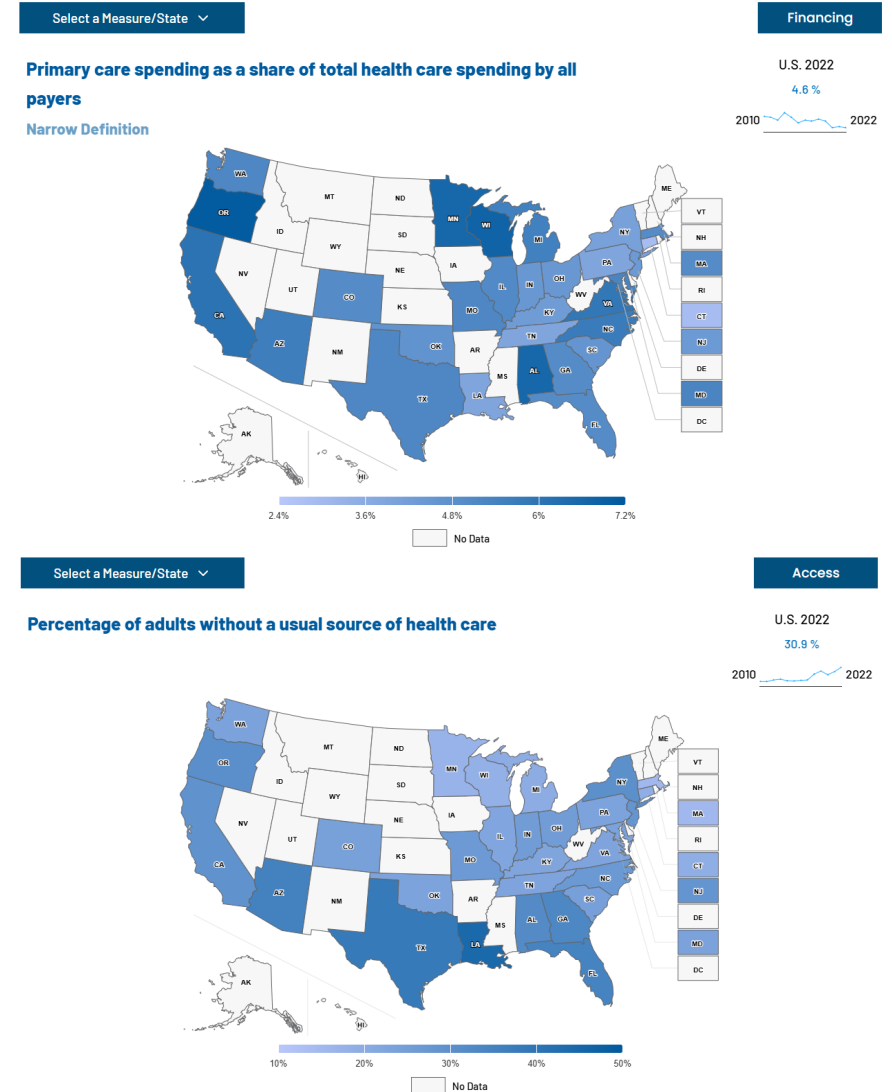Department of Health Care
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Context

- The NASEM 2021 *Implementing High-Quality Primary Care* report proposed a US scorecard on the health of primary care to track implementation and progress towards high-quality primary care

- National level and state level scorecards have been developed since then

- California Health Care Foundation's (CHCF) Primary Care Investment Coordinating Group of California (PICG) recommended a primary care scorecard for California in 2022

CONSENSUS STUDY REPORT

The National Academies of
SCIENCES · ENGINEERING · MEDICINE

Implementing High-Quality Primary Care

Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care

Source: NASEM (2021) Implementing High-Quality Primary Care: Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care | The National Academies Press, PICG Recommended Actions Recommended Actions - California Health Care Foundation
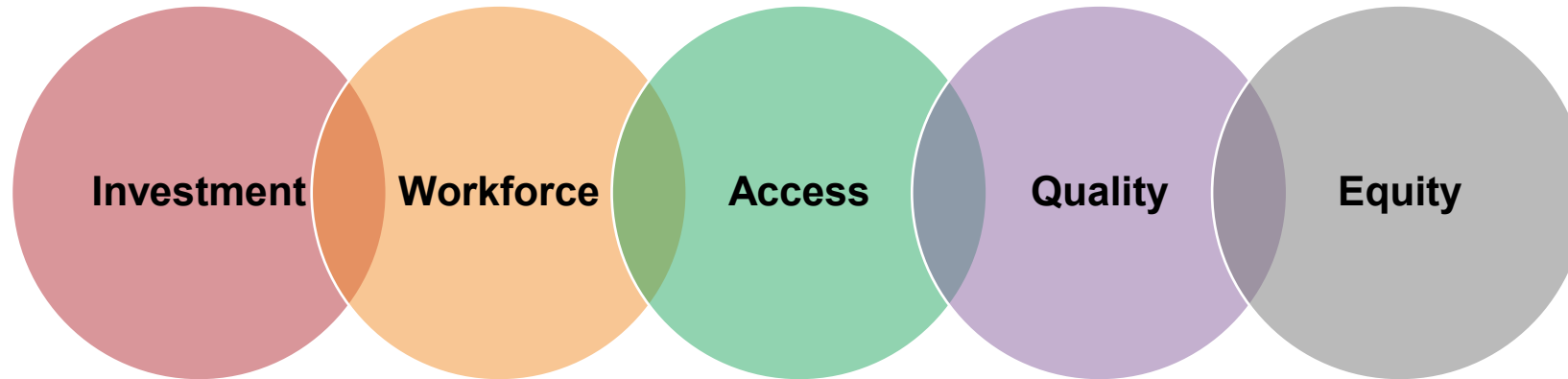
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Primary Care Snapshot Purpose

- Create a **shared understanding** of the health of California's primary care sector, both statewide and for geographic regions within the state

- **Track progress** toward equitable, high-quality, sustainable primary care for all Californians

- Monitor performance on **key elements of the health of primary care**, including spending and outcomes

- **Identify gaps and challenges** to inform action on spending, workforce, and access
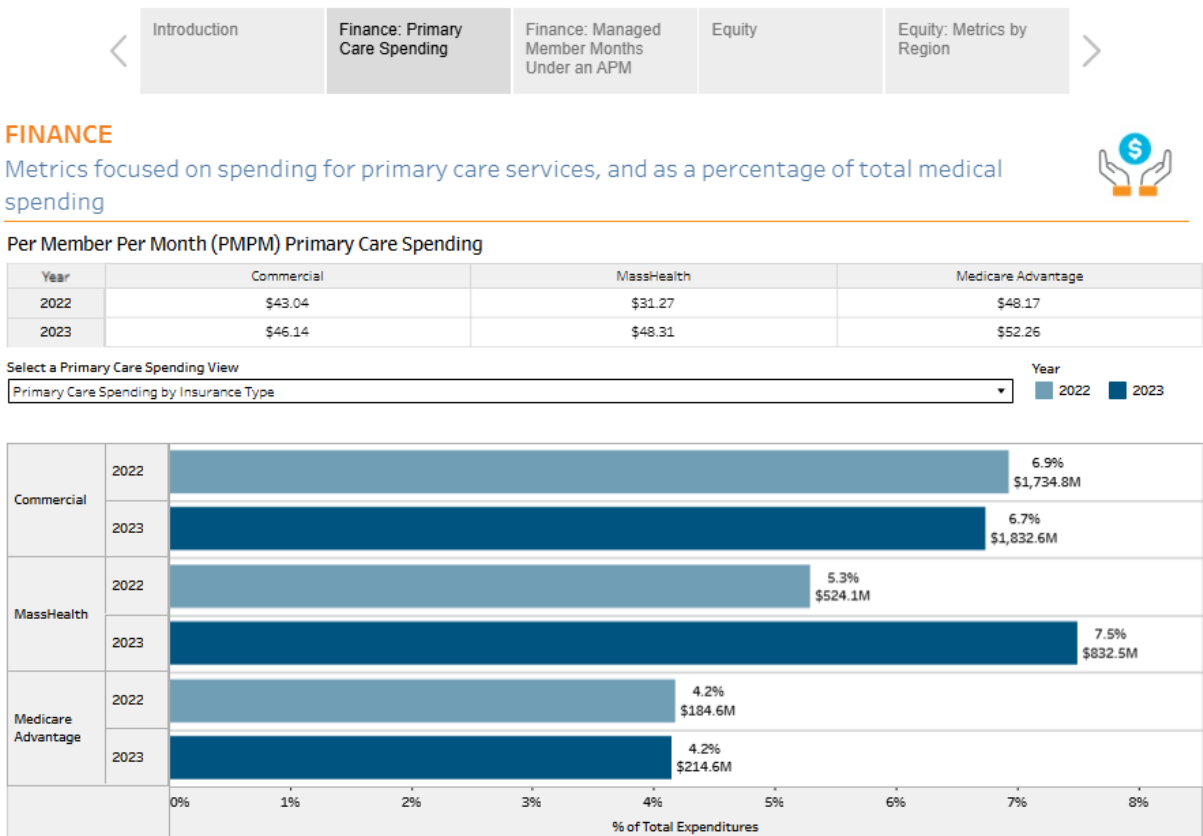
Primary Care Snapshot Approach and Audiences

- **Compile data** from across HCAI and other sources to create a comprehensive picture of primary care in California, both statewide and for geographic regions within the state

- Focus on **five key domains**

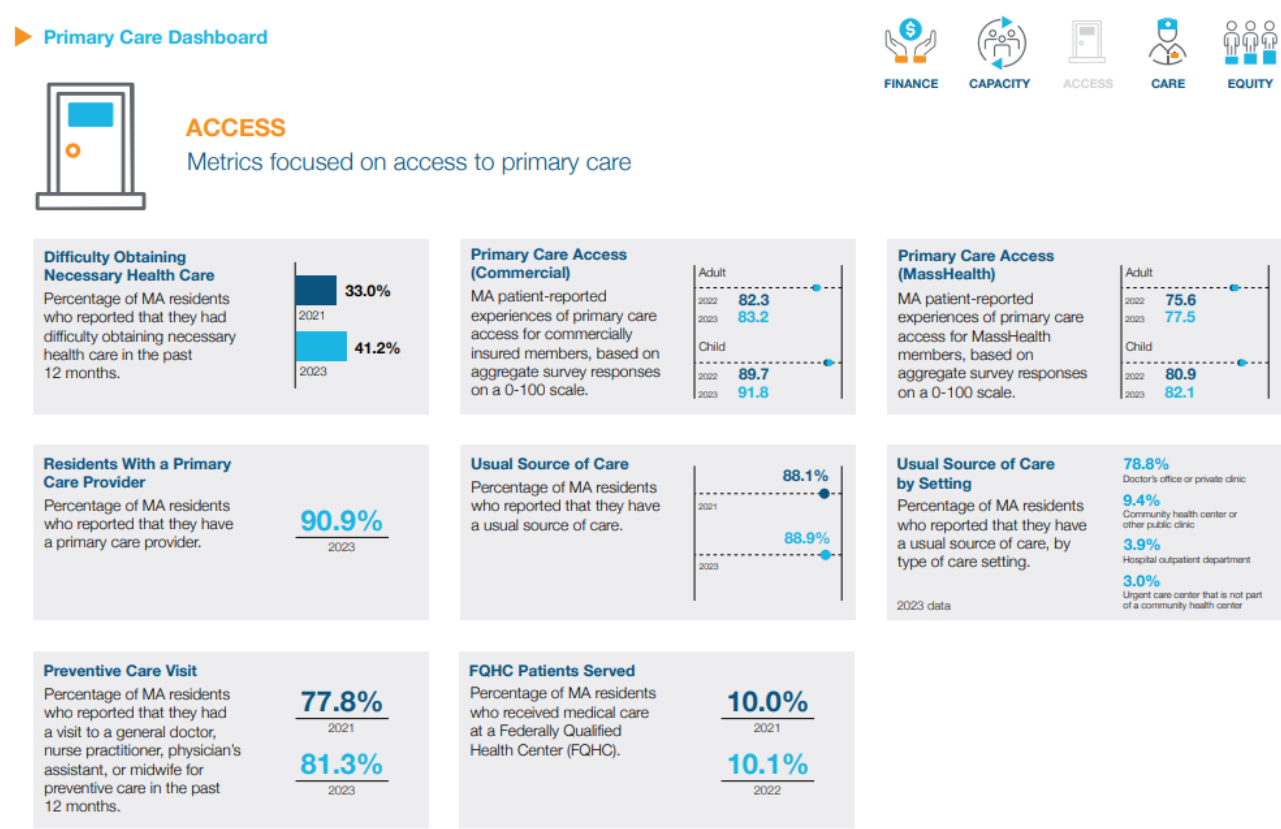Investment · Workforce · Access · Quality · Equity

- Adopt a **phased approach** that begins with a static report on the key domains and adds indicators and interactive features over time

- The primary audiences are **engaged stakeholders** (purchasers, payers, providers, state government, policymakers, consumer advocates, and researchers)

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Example: Massachusetts Primary Care Dashboard

Interactive dashboard

Static dashboard

Primary Care Snapshot Deliverables

Early 2026 | HCAI Brief on the Health of Primary Care in California

- **Introduction to Primary Care Snapshot:** Timeline, approach to the annual static and interactive Primary Care Snapshots, stakeholder engagement
- **Content Overview:** Current state of primary care in California, domains for future Primary Care Snapshots

2026 | Health of Primary Care in California Snapshot (static version)

- **First Static Report:** Baseline performance on key indicators for each domain to be included in interactive Primary Care Snapshot
- **Update on Interactive Primary Care Snapshot:** Timeline and updates for development and release

2027 | Health of Primary Care in California Snapshot (interactive)

- **First Interactive Primary Care Snapshot:** Data dashboard featuring key indicators in each domain
- **Accompanying Static Report:** Easily downloadable digest of performance on key indicators
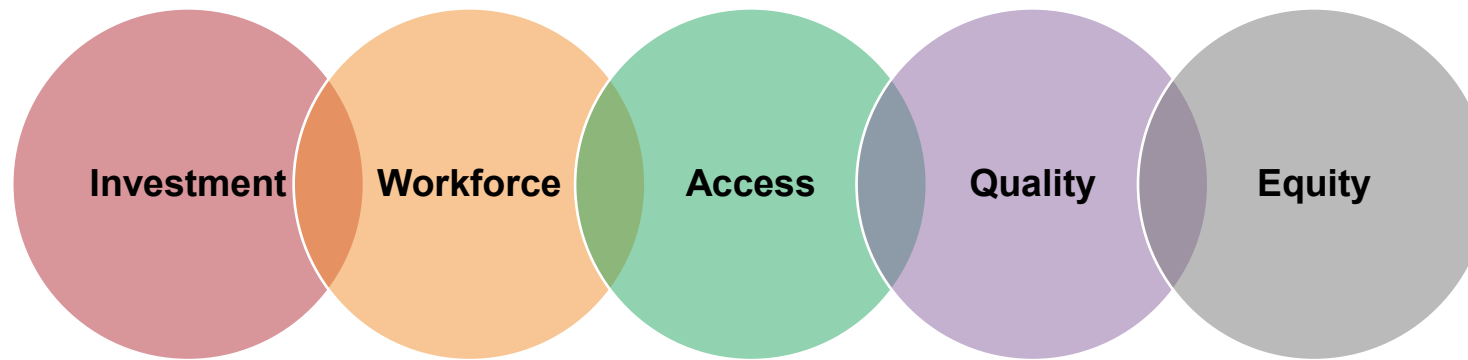
2028 and beyond | Annual updated Interactive and Static Primary Care Snapshots

Note: Names of, and content within, deliverables are tentative and can be revised.

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Primary Care Snapshot Indicator Development

Proposed criteria for state and national indicators for the Primary Care Snapshot

✓ Is the indicator of interest to, and actionable for, California stakeholders?
✓ Is the indicator supported by existing, accessible California data sources or national data sources with California-specific data that can be tracked over time?
✓ Does the indicator directly measure strength of the primary care sector?
✓ Does the indicator track change in the primary care sector, aligned with the five key domains?

Example indicator: primary care investment by health plan and statewide

Investment   Workforce   Access   Quality   Equity

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Stakeholder Engagement

Guiding Principles

- Engage a diverse set of stakeholders and seek their input to create a relevant slate of primary care indicators

- Present stakeholders with a focused goal for the Primary Care Snapshot, based on current capabilities and an aligned vision for primary care

- Convene a **new workgroup bi-monthly** for technical input, discussion among stakeholders, and Primary Care Snapshot development through at least year-end 2026

- Report on Primary Care Snapshot progress to **existing HCAI stakeholder groups** for feedback, quarterly or as needed

- Conduct **individual meetings with stakeholders and experts**, as needed, to elicit candid feedback on indicator domains, preferences, and tradeoffs

Stakeholder Groups

Providers	Health Plans
Purchasers	Consumer/ Policy Advocates
Academic/ Subject Matter Experts	Health Systems

HCAI Primary Care Snapshot Project Team

- The Primary Care Snapshot is a collaborative HCAI project leveraging expertise in data, workforce, spending, equity, and quality
- Contractor support from Freedman HealthCare and Diane Rittenhouse, Mathematica
- Collaborating with CHCF on communications to support dissemination of the Snapshot
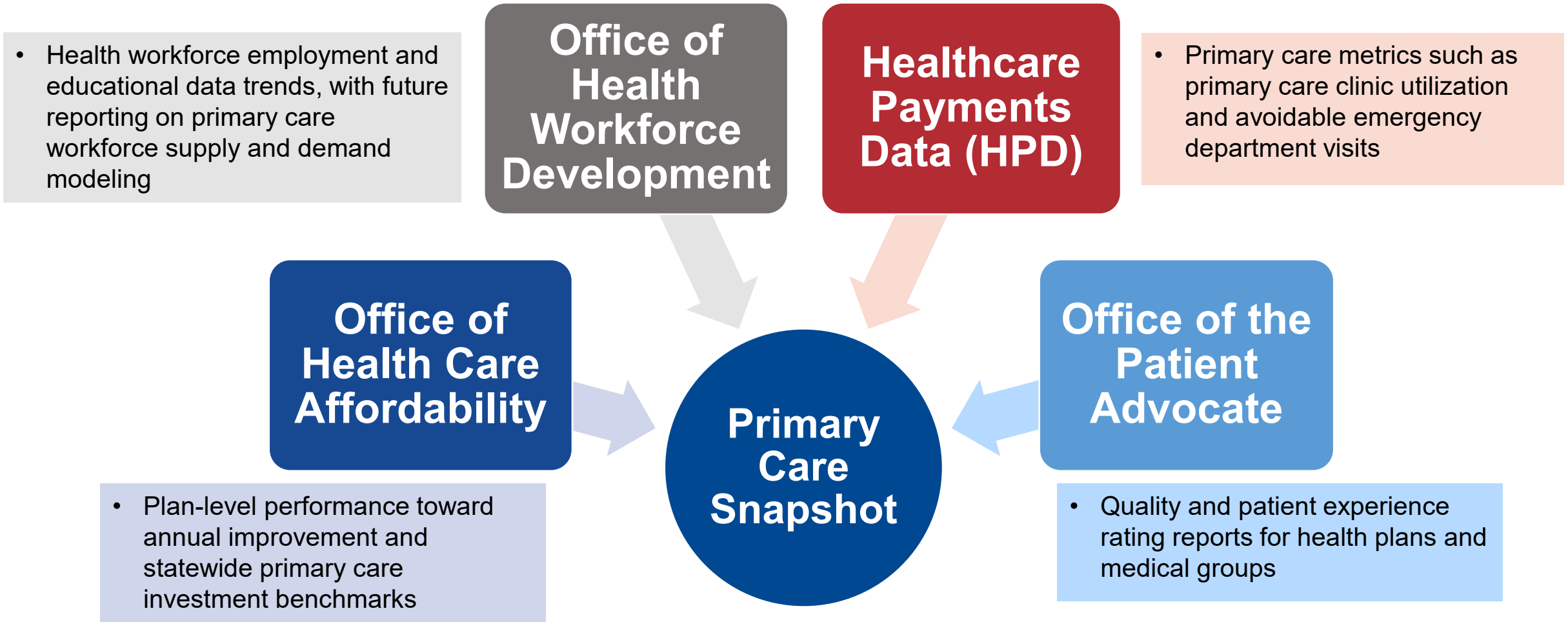
Office of Health Information (OHI) (Healthcare Payments Data)	Office of Health Workforce Development (OHWD)
Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA)	Office of the Patient Advocate (OPA)

HCAI Primary Care Reporting

- Health workforce employment and educational data trends, with future reporting on primary care workforce supply and demand modeling

Office of Health Workforce Development

Healthcare Payments Data (HPD)

- Primary care metrics such as primary care clinic utilization and avoidable emergency department visits

Office of Health Care Affordability

Primary Care Snapshot

Office of the Patient Advocate

- Plan-level performance toward annual improvement and statewide primary care investment benchmarks

- Quality and patient experience rating reports for health plans and medical groups

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HPD Primary Care Utilization Report

- Analyses and visualization currently under development

- Primary care definition developed by OHCA with input from its Investment and Payment Workgroup

  - Based on procedure codes, place of service, and provider taxonomy
  - Definition specifications: THCE-Data-Submission-Guide-v2.0.pdf

HPD Primary Care Measures

- <u>Yearly Utilization</u>

  - Primary care visits per 1,000 members

  - Members without a primary care visit

  - Average distance traveled to a primary care visit

  - Stratifications: Age Group, Payer Type, Sex, Urban/Rural

- <u>Member-Level Continuity of Care</u>

  - Bice-Boxerman Continuity of Care (CoC) index[1]

    - Weighs frequency and consistency of primary care visits to a single provider vs multiple different providers

    - Basis of the Core Quality Measure Collaborative (CQMC) Continuity measure[2]

    - CQMC measure used in Covered CA and DHCS CoC reporting

    - Continuous Care = index score > 0.7

  - Report percentage of members with Continuous Care

  - Rate of Continuous Care for members that switched payers, plans or product types

  - Stratifications: Age Group, Payer Type, Sex, Urban/Rural

1. Bice TW, Boxerman SB. A quantitative measure of continuity of care. Med Care. 1977:347–349.
2. Clinical Quality Measures - Continuity of Care 2024

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Next Steps for the Primary Care Snapshot

- Release of HCAI Brief on the Health of Primary Care in California and Primary Care Snapshot webpage

- Release the HPD Primary Care Utilization Report in spring 2026

- Continue to develop indicators for late-2026 Primary Care Snapshot with input from the public Snapshot Workgroup, sibling state departments, and existing HCAI stakeholder groups