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THE SUPER-COMMITTEE COLLAPSE AND AMERICA'S HEALTHCARE FUTURE: Impact on Providers, Households and the 2012 Elections



With the failure of the so-called Congressional "supercommittee" to agree on recommendations for cutting more than \$1 trillion from federal government spending, automatic slashes to defense and domestic spending may be triggered. Those cuts could affect programs like Medicare but would not be effective until 2013, leaving lawmakers time to negotiate during the lead up to the next Presidential election. This Forum event will examine the implications for America's health care of ongoing Congressional budget wrangling. Which budgetary policy changes will be made and who will make them? Presented in collaboration with Reuters.

[Watch live](#) on December 16, 4:00-5:00 PM.

Overall hospital admission rates in U.S. linked with high rates of readmission



High hospital readmission rates in different regions of the U.S. may have more to do with the overall high use of hospital services in those regions than with the severity of patients' particular conditions or problems in the quality of care during and after hospital discharges, according to a new study from researchers at HSPH. The study appears in the December 15, 2011 *New England Journal of Medicine*. [Read more](#)

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Event highlight

[Reproductive Health Symposium](#)

January 19
9:00 AM-4:00 PM
Kresge 502

In memorium: Mary Ellen Avery



Mary Ellen Avery, a major figure in Boston medicine and public health--whose work while a research fellow at HSPH in the 1950s led to the modern neonatal intensive care unit--passed away on December 4 at the age of 84. Her research earned Avery a National Medal of Science in 1991. [Read more](#)

Laird, Blendon appointed to named professorships



[Nan Laird](#) was appointed the new Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of Public Health. This honor recognizes her more than 35 years developing statistical methodology, teaching, and doing applied research.



[Robert Blendon](#) is the inaugural recipient of the Richard L. Menschel Professorship in Public Health, a position that will be held in tandem with the directorship of the Division of Policy Translation and Leadership Development. This honor recognizes Blendon's leadership of the Division, as well as his commitment to innovation and creativity in public health practice, research, scholarship, and teaching. [Read more](#)

Indian Health Service director discusses challenges of doing more with less



The Indian Health Service's limited resources are both a sore point and a strength, says its director, Yvette Roubideaux, MPH '97, who shared her experiences as part of the "Decision-Making: Voices From the Field" speaker series. [Read more](#)

Conference addresses quantitative challenges of using complex genomics data in medical research



Experts speaking at the fifth annual [Program in Quantitative Genomics Conference](#), hosted by HSPH's [Department of Biostatistics](#) and the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute on November 17-18, said that the benefits of genomic medicine are promising but there's still a long way to go. [Read more](#)

Research news and interviews



[Preventing auto-pedestrian crashes](#)
(HSPH feature)

[Health care policy expert says now is the time to focus on prevention](#)
(HSPH feature)

[Expert panel releases report on environmental links to breast cancer](#)
(Bloomberg News)

[William Hsiao helps Vermont reform its health care system](#)
(Harvard Crimson)