The State Health Care Spending Project, an initiative of The Pew Charitable Trusts and the MacArthur Foundation, has recently published two reports.

The first report is entitled: State Health Care Spending on Medicaid: A 50-state study of trends and drivers of cost [2]. This report is the first in a series of 50-state studies examining seven key areas of state health care spending- Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and active and retired state government employee health insurance.

Second report is entitled: Tracking Key Health Indicators [3]. To provide context to each state’s spending on health care services, Pew examined 20 health indicators that show wide variation between states’ residents. Given the complexity of achieving and maintaining good health, direct correlations cannot and should not be made between the health status of the population of a state and the level of its health care spending. High-value health care is as much about how dollars are spent as it is about how many dollars are spent.

The State Health Care Spending Project is an initiative to help policymakers better understand how much money states spend on health care, how and why that amount has changed over time, and which policies are containing costs while maintaining or improving health outcomes. For more information, click here. [4]