

# KFF Health News

## Sacramento Press Club Journalism Awards Public Health Reporting Stories by Angela Hart

### **Pregnant and Addicted: Homeless Women See Hope in Street Medicine | Oct. 18, 2023**

<https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/pregnancy-postpartum-drug-addiction-homeless-street-medicine/>

### **California's Medicaid Experiment Spends Money to Save Money — And Help the Homeless | April 19, 2023**

<https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/california-homelessness-calaim-program-medicaid-experiment/>

### **'The Country Is Watching': California Homeless Crisis Looms as Gov. Newsom Eyes Political Future | Feb. 9, 2023**

<https://kffhealthnews.org/news/article/california-homeless-crisis-governor-gavin-newsom-political-future/>

One scorching day last June, Angela Hart was tromping through thigh-high brush when she found a homeless woman sitting beside a broken shopping cart. Lauren Hansen, who was getting ready to scrounge money to buy heroin or fentanyl, had just been discharged after a cesarean section and needed something to numb the pain. Her baby hadn't survived.

California had just boosted pay for health care services for homeless people, known as street medicine, and Hart, a KFF Health News senior correspondent, wanted to find out how it was working. What she discovered was a tragic story about the growing number of homeless pregnant women in California whose lives have been overrun by hard drug use — and their separation from children, sometimes by death and sometimes by the courts.

As part of this reporting, Hart was [the first journalist to report](#) on the innovative billing mechanism that is boosting street medicine in California. Her digging also [spurred a scoop](#) about how California's billing change led to a national Medicaid billing policy shift.

She has also focused an accountability lens on Gov. Gavin Newsom and his ambitious experiment to infuse the state's Medicaid program with social services — directed largely at homeless Californians. [As she discovered in April](#), the program has not yet met a key benchmark: providing care managers to those most in need, and the state lacks the health care staffing and infrastructure to achieve its promise.

Hart also [tallied Newsom's budget allocations](#) to directly address homelessness, finding in a first-of-its-kind analysis that he has allocated more than \$20 billion, in addition to billions more for mental health and addiction programs targeting homeless people.

Hart's reporting relies on a mix of hard-nosed accountability work and shoe leather reporting in homeless encampments, hospitals, and communities. With this mix of sensitive and tough reporting, she has shown repeatedly that homelessness — arguably the biggest issue facing California — is a public health issue.