

Advancing health and policy through data-driven research



At the **Center for Health Systems Effectiveness (CHSE)** at Oregon Health & Science University, we bridge data and policy to improve health outcomes and access, with a focus on Medicaid and vulnerable populations. Our research drives actionable solutions that help policymakers and healthcare leaders make informed decisions.

Leveraging expertise in Medicaid data and policy

Our Center is nationally recognized for Medicaid policy expertise. We leverage the national Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) Analytic Files (TAF) dataset and additional state Medicaid claims data to produce rigorous, policy-relevant research.

Linking data for new insights

By linking Medicaid claims with birth and death records, child welfare data, psychiatric hospital stays, incarceration records, and climate indicators, we reveal critical intersections between health, social systems, and the environment—and opportunities for positive change.

Pursuing excellence

We produce objective, credible, and rigorous research that meets the highest standards of academia and industry. We prioritize clear and accessible communication, ensuring that complex analyses are understandable for a wide range of audiences.

Facilitating national dialogue

Our bimonthly **Medicaid Insights Colloquium** brings together national experts to discuss pressing Medicaid research and policy issues. Advisory boards contribute valuable external perspectives, while our work at OHSU fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, strengthening the health services research community.

Powering our work with partnerships

Our research is supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Commonwealth Fund, Arnold Ventures, and the Silver Family Foundation. We also partner closely with the states of Oregon and Washington through contracts for state health policy initiatives.

Our history

Founded in 2011 by **K. John McConnell**, Ph.D., CHSE includes economists, statisticians, affiliated physician-scientists, and a robust research staff with diverse academic backgrounds and experience.



School of
MEDICINE

Research focus areas

Medicaid Waivers

States increasingly use Medicaid Section 1115 waivers to test new approaches to coverage, care delivery, and payment reform. We partner with states to evaluate these innovations—examining how waiver policies affect healthcare access, quality, and outcomes. Our work helps states understand the real-world impacts of their experiments, supporting data-driven decisions that improve Medicaid programs and the lives of beneficiaries.

“We’ve shown that Medicaid waivers to expand access to residential treatment for people with opioid use disorder have helped, but not enough. We must shore up the whole continuum of care and increase access to opioid addiction medicines that remain hampered by stigma and excessive regulation.”

— Stephan Lindner, Ph.D.
CHSE Faculty
Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine
OHSU School of Medicine

Care for Older Adults and Complex Populations

We are evaluating new models to better coordinate care for low-income adults covered by both Medicare and Medicaid—from care that makes it possible for more people to live at home to nursing home care.

“We help identify effective supports for people who often have multiple chronic conditions and functional or cognitive impairments, fueling program and policy changes to buoy well-being while lending stability to our health and long-term care systems as a whole.”

— Hyunjee Kim, Ph.D.
CHSE Faculty
Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine
OHSU School of Medicine

Reproductive Health

We are engaged in multiple studies of policies aimed at extending coverage for prenatal and postpartum care, expanding access to contraceptive services, and integrating behavioral and maternal healthcare to improve outcomes for parents and infants.

“We’re interested in how Medicaid policy itself drives disparities. It’s a departure from the historic focus on individual behavior and risk factors – i.e. blaming the person and their circumstance.”

— Maria Rodriguez, M.D., MPH
CHSE Affiliated Faculty
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
OHSU School of Medicine

Behavioral Health

Our research tests the impact of Medicaid policies on access to mental health and substance use treatment. These studies assess Medicaid’s role in addressing the adolescent mental health crisis, evaluate how changes in managed care affect behavioral health services, examine programs expanding residential and inpatient care, and explore the intersection of behavioral health and the criminal justice system.

“Patients often have to scale mountains to get appropriate behavioral health services. We’re scrutinizing measures of access – just because a health plan lists dozens of providers, for example, doesn’t mean you can get in to see them.”

— Jane Zhu, M.D., MPP, MSHP
CHSE Affiliated Faculty
Associate Professor of Medicine
OHSU School of Medicine

Connect with us

OHSU Center for Health Systems Effectiveness, 3030 S. Moody Ave., Portland, OR 97201

www.ohsu.edu/chse | chse-info@ohsu.edu