

Invest in impact: Sharing state-level health data to save dollars

The impact of the OHSU UCEDD:

The OHSU UCEDD plays a critical role in supporting community-based solutions and improving coordination across systems. Without federal funding for UCEDD, Oregon would lose its statewide hub for disability data, and a primary engine for service system innovation, data-driven planning, and workforce development in disability services. The consequences would be significant:

- **Breakdown of Oregon’s Developmental Disabilities Network** - making it harder to implement coordinated, community-based solutions across agencies—resulting in inefficiencies and missed opportunities.
- **Fewer tools to prevent costly hospitalizations and maintain cost effective community-based services**, which are essential for well-coordinated care and a healthier Oregon.
- **Weakened state capacity:** Oregon would have limited ability to respond to federal funding opportunities or implement data-driven solutions.

The OHSU UCEDD helps Oregon stretch every dollar further by building local capacity and reducing long-term costs. Continued federal support ensures taxpayer dollars are used wisely, with strong returns in both fiscal efficiency and better health outcomes for people with disabilities.

The problem: Lack of information leads to inefficiency

People with disabilities often face complex health care needs, yet inadequate data collection and inconsistent definitions make it difficult to track their health outcomes or effectively manage care.¹ This lack of reliable data limits the state’s ability to identify disparities, allocate resources efficiently, and ensure accountability in Medicaid spending.

Our solution:

The OHSU UCEDD is sharing state-level health data so that Oregon can identify patterns, reduce duplication of services, and target interventions that prevent costly health complications, especially within the Medicaid population.

How the OHSU UCEDD makes a difference in rural Oregon

When agencies and providers have timely access to accurate data, they can coordinate care more effectively, reduce unnecessary hospital visits, and support early, lower-cost interventions. This is especially critical in rural and underserved areas where resources are limited, and every dollar must stretch further.

The OHSU UCEDD helps Oregon stretch every dollar further by building local capacity and reducing long-term costs. In the last five years, every \$1 invested Federally in our UCEDD has resulted in an average of \$18 in additional grants, contracts, and projects to serve the state of Oregon. This does not include an even more significant return in reduced health care and social service expenditures.

OHSU UCEDD in Action

National Core Indicators Oregon Workforce Stability Report

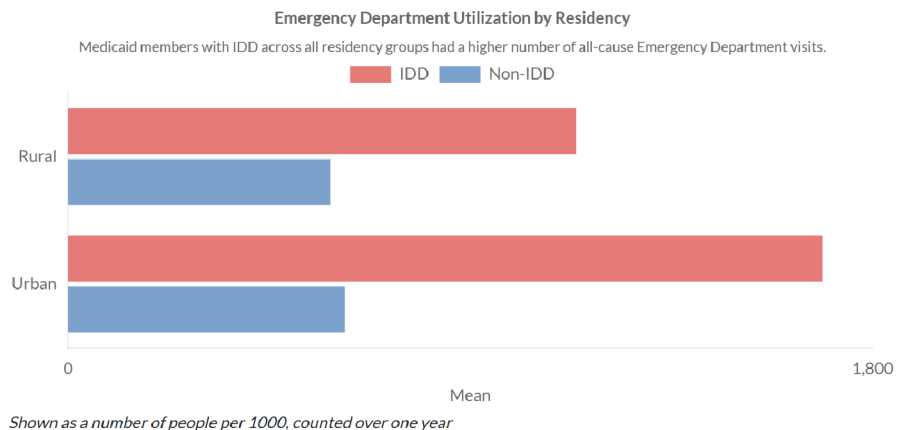
The OHSU UCEDD has produced several Oregon Staff Stability Reports based on National Core Indicators State of the Workforce Survey which provide critical data and recommendations on staffing trends, turnover, and wages—allowing the state to make informed, fiscally responsible decisions. A stable, well-supported direct support workforce is essential to delivering cost-effective care for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

National “Do You Hear Me Now?” initiative

The OHSU UCEDD, along with other UCEDDs in the country, is helping lead the way in improving accurate diagnosis of intellectual and developmental disabilities alongside mental health conditions. Getting the diagnosis right the first time prevents costly mistakes—such as unnecessary hospitalizations, ineffective treatments, or long-term institutional care.² This kind of targeted, data-driven approach ensures individuals get the care they need while reducing waste and saving taxpayer dollars.

Health of Oregon Adults with Disabilities data project:

The OHSU UCEDD looked at the health of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon using Medicaid claims data. Findings on measures such as emergency department use and 30-day hospital readmissions pointed to significant health disparities. The UCEDD developed recommendations for the state of Oregon to address gaps in care, prevent crisis, and improve the cost of providing care to this vulnerable population.



What are UCEDDs?

UCEDDs are congressionally authorized programs that strengthening states to support people with developmental disabilities and their families. The OHSU UCEDD, established in 1971, is a member of the national Association of University Centers on Disabilities. Our work is a partnership with Oregonians who experience disabilities, our ACL funded programs, Developmental Disabilities Network partners, and community-based organizations.

If you would like to learn more about our work, please visit our website at: www.ohsu.edu/ucedd.

References

1. Lindner SR, Martinez Acevedo A, Heinlein J, Daly A, George R. Evaluating Health Disparities of Medicaid Members Diagnosed with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities in Oregon. Center for Health Systems Effectiveness, Oregon Health & Science University; 2024.
2. Wysocki, Andrea, Cara Stepanczuk, and Caitlin Murray. "Medicaid LongTerm Services and Supports Users and Expenditures among People Ages 0-20, 2022." Mathematica, August 29, 2024.