

Health Data for Action: 2019 Grantee Overview

Background

Health Data for Action (HD4A) is a signature research program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) managed by AcademyHealth. HD4A aims to reduce the barriers often faced in accessing data by serving as a conduit between data owners and interested researchers. Through each HD4A funding opportunity, RWJF makes valuable data from unique data owners available to researchers.

In 2019, the Foundation awarded 19 HD4A grants to researchers who will conduct their studies using data from one of the following data providers: athenahealth, CareJourney, the Health Care Cost Institute (HCCI) or OptumLabs. The studies will use the available data to examine a range of issues, including care coordination and quality, cost-sharing and benefit design, maternal health, prescription drugs, and public health. A brief summary of each project follows. Full details about the grants are available by clicking on the grant titles below or by visiting the AcademyHealth website at academyhealth.org/page/2019-health-data-action-grantees.

Study Spotlights

athenahealth

Predictive Models of Obesity

*Rahmatollah Beheshti, Ph.D. and Jessica C. Jones-Smith, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D. (University of Washington)
University of Delaware*

This study will examine the role of obesity in developing major chronic conditions in the U.S. and identify the effects of major medications on body weight changes.

Association of Team-Based Primary Care with Chronic Disease Outcomes

*Robert Huckman, Ph.D., Lucy Chen, B.S., B.A. and Maximilian Pany, B.A. President
and Fellows of Harvard College*

This study will examine the association of team-based primary care with clinical outcomes of chronic disease to provide insights for policymakers, practitioners, and administrators about whether to shift toward team-based primary care and to identify what team composition may be most effective.

Computational Phenotyping to Better Understand Obesity

*Xiaoqian Jiang, Ph.D. and Yejin Kim Ph.D.
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston*

This study will examine how combinations of comorbidities and medications may trigger obesity to help providers better understand different patterns of weight gain, which may in turn inform efforts to allocate limited resources to the patient sub-groups that may benefit most.

CareJourney

Care Coordination Profiles: Variations Over Time and Geography

Eva DuGoff, Ph.D., M.P.P. (Berkeley Research Group) and Aditi Sen, Ph.D. (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health) University of Maryland

This study will examine the role of physicians and other factors in facilitating or hindering care coordination, geographic and other correlates of such coordination, and the impact of coordination on cost and health outcomes to inform policy discussions of Accountable Care Organizations and other health care market reforms.

Enabling Communities to Monitor and Manage Eldercare for their Populations

Joanne Lynn, M.D., M.A., M.S. and Laura McGovern, M.P.A. Altarum Institute

This study aims to help communities take on responsibility for improving the reliability and efficiency of their eldercare arrangements by helping eight communities allocate resources to reduce the risks and effects of unnecessary and/or harmful medical services through targeted comprehensive care management, outreach to specific practitioners, improvements in availability and accessibility of supportive services, and other efforts

Health Care Cost Institute (HCCI)

An Evaluation of Alternative to the 30-Day All-Cause Readmission Measure

Ian Stockwell, Ph.D. (Hilltop Institute) and Jon M. Hirshon, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H. University of Maryland, Baltimore County

This study will develop and test condition-specific hospital readmission algorithms that could augment or replace the current 30-day all-cause readmission measure and aims to contribute toward a more efficient and effective hospital readmission quality measure.

Postpartum Health Care in the United States: Generating Evidence to Improve Health in the Fourth Trimester

Jamie Roberta Daw, M.Sc., Ph.D., and Maria Steenland, S.D., M.P.H. (Brown University) The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York

This study will examine whether mothers are receiving the recommended health care after childbirth and explore how the organization and reimbursement of postpartum services affects health care use, costs and health outcomes.

Influence of Cost Sharing on Access to and Quality of Care for Common, Costly, and Serious Surgical Conditions

Andrew P. Loehrer, M.D., M.P.H. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic

This study will examine the impact of patient cost-sharing on timely presentation with and receipt of optimal care for the most common and morbid surgical and vascular conditions and aims to improve clinical care and efficacy of coverage.

Spillover Effects from Medicare ACOs on Health Care Quality and Efficiency

Jing Li, M.D., M.S. and Jeffery Talbert, Ph.D. University of Kentucky

This study will investigate the spillover effects from Medicare Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and will assess the influence of Medicare payment innovations on the broader health care system to inform public and private decision-making about ACOs and other innovative payment models.

Simplification of Hepatitis C Care: Changes in the Provider Landscape after Direct-antivirals and the Impact on Treatment

Shashi N. Kapadia, M.D., M.S.

Weill Cornell Medical College

This study will examine whether hepatitis C (HCV) treatment that is integrated into primary care has been widely adopted and address the impact that integration may have on the epidemic to provide insights for policymakers and public health practitioners seeking to identify settings in which HCV treatment capacity may be lacking.

Can Investments in the Social Determinants of Health Help Bend the Health Care Cost Curve?

Simone Singh, Ph.D.

The Regents of the University of Michigan

This study will explore the influence of county-level governmental expenditures for 14 types of public health and social services on annual per capita health care costs for non-elderly Americans covered under employer-sponsored health insurance to help employers, private insurers, and other audiences understand the link between investments in social determinants of health and health care costs.

State Policies to Enhance the Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs: Intended and Unintended Consequences

Yuhua Bao, Ph.D.

Weill Cornell Medical College

This study will assess the impact of state policies to enhance the use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs to inform health policy discussions related to opioid misuse and pain management.

Provider Responses to High Deductible Health Plans

Christopher Whaley, Ph.D. and Neeraj Sood, Ph.D. (University of Southern California)

RAND Corporation

This study will examine the effect of increased market-level exposure to consumer-directed health plans (CDHPs) on provider prices for common health care services to determine whether CDHPs are effective policies or if they lead to high patient costs with little impact on value.

OptumLabs

Severe Storms and Asthma Exacerbation Among Children

Kate Weinberger, Ph.D. (University of British Columbia) and Gregory Wellenius, Sc.D.

Brown University

This study will estimate the causal effect of Atlantic-basin hurricanes and tropical storms (collectively, “severe storms”) on asthma exacerbation among children to provide clinicians and public health officials with information they can use to guide the response to these extreme weather events.

Use of Pharmacotherapy and Psychosocial Therapy for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder

Ryan Mutter, Ph.D.

Congressional Budget Office

This study will examine patient, insurance, and area factors associated with the types of treatment patients receive for opioid use disorder (OUD) to inform payers and policymakers about the resource use and potential outcomes of different courses of treatment for patients with OUD. This project represents a research collaboration through a no cost contract between the Congressional Budget Office and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Effects of Increases in Patient Out-of-Pockets Costs for Insulin on Diabetes- Utilization and Outcomes in Patients with Prescription Drug Coverage

*Carrie McAdam-Marx, MSCI, Ph.D., R.Ph. and Natalia Ruiz-Negrón, PharmD (Utah College of Pharmacy)
University of Nebraska Medical Center*

This study will examine the association between increases in insulin out-of-pocket cost and the use of insulin and non-insulin diabetes medications, as well as the association with other diabetes-related outcomes (e.g. poor blood sugar control, emergency department visits and hospitalizations) to help decision makers better understand insulin price sensitivity and the consequences of cost-related non-adherence.

Exploring Patterns in Prenatal Care to Inform Strategies to Reduce Maternal Morbidity and Mortality

*Neel Shah, M.D. and Rebecca A. Gourevitch M.S.
Ariadne Labs*

This study will examine how prenatal care affects maternal outcomes to inform policies and practices that can improve maternal health by focusing their analyses on whether there are differences in timing of prenatal care initiation by zip code and how quality of prenatal care varies across geographic areas and by women's health status.

Outcome-Based Prescribing of Antidepressants: Phenotype of Patients Who Respond to Antidepressants

*Farrokh Alemi, Ph.D.
George Mason University*

This study will examine how various illnesses affect response to antidepressants (or combination of antidepressants) to improve management of depressed patients in primary care settings through creating a web-based decision aid for selection of antidepressant.

Labor Market Causes and Consequences of Prescription Opioids

*Michael Reich, Ph.D. and Anna Godøy, Ph.D.
University of California, Berkeley*

This study will examine the causal relationship between the supply of high-risk opioid prescriptions and labor force participation to develop a more complete understanding of the intersection between the opioid epidemic and labor market outcomes, and to examine the role of economic policies as potential strategies to address this public health crisis.