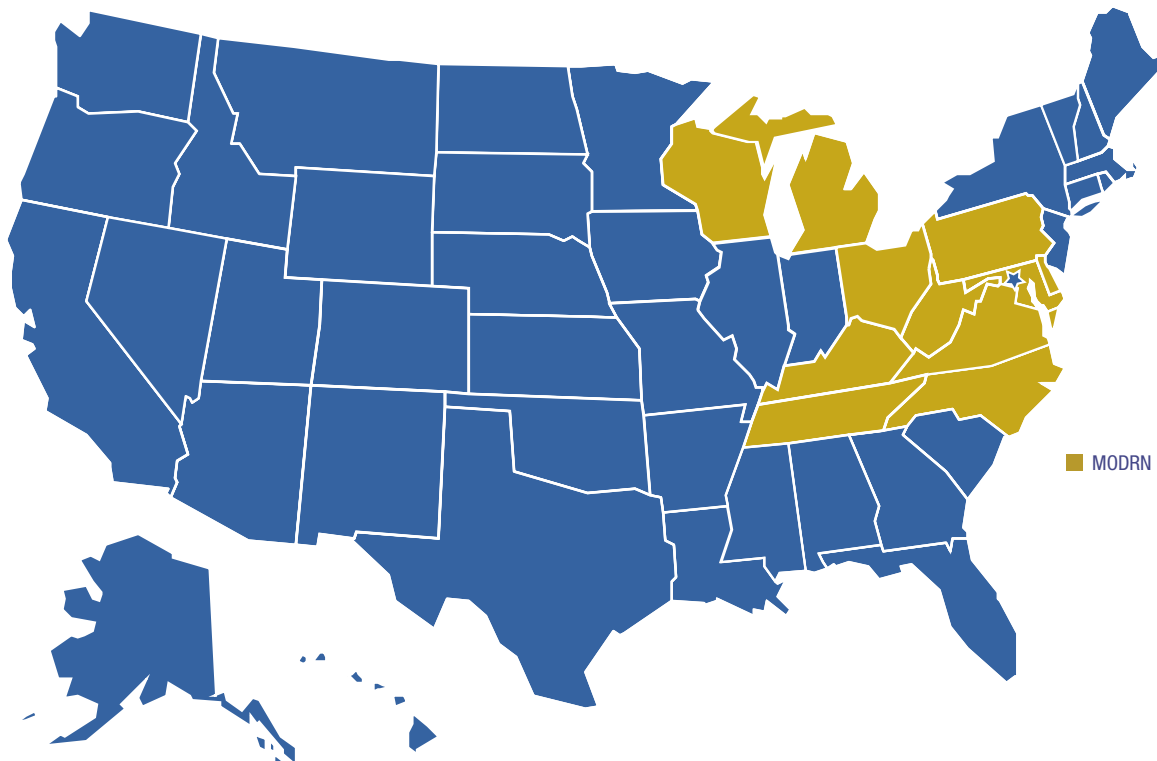


The Medicaid Outcomes Distributed Research Network (MODRN)

Medicaid provides coverage for over 81 million Americans and serves as the backbone of the health care safety net. Comparing access, quality and costs across state Medicaid programs can provide much-needed information to state policymakers. Yet, there are a number of barriers to sharing data between states. AcademyHealth's Medicaid Outcomes Distributed Research Network (MODRN) works collaboratively with state Medicaid agencies to rapidly disseminate findings to policymakers..



The MODRN is a collaborative effort between the State-University Partnership Learning Network (SUPLN) and the Medicaid Medical Director Network (MMDN) to support evidence-based state health policy and practice with a focus on transforming Medicaid-based healthcare, including improving the patient experience with care, improving the health of populations, and reducing the per capita cost of healthcare.

Strengths of MODRN

- **Timely Medicaid Analyses:** MODRN is currently analyzing 2020 Medicaid administrative data
- **Captures Variation in Medicaid Policies:** MODRN states vary substantially in Medicaid policy, expansion decisions, geographic region, and population characteristics
- **Facilitates Linkages to Other State Data:** Many MODRN partners link Medicaid data to other state data (e.g., vital statistics, housing data, income maintenance programs, food and nutrition services, child welfare system records, or criminal justice records)
- **Large population:** Includes 22% of all US Medicaid enrollees

MODRN Research Capabilities

- **Medicaid Enrollment and Eligibility:** MODRN can analyze enrollment and eligibility shifts in Medicaid during COVID-19
- **Maternal and Infant Mortality:** MODRN can measure maternal and infant mortality prevalence related to OUD
- **Impact Analyses of Medicaid Policies:** MODRN can assess the impact of specific Medicaid policies/initiatives on concurrent participation within public benefit programs (e.g., SNAP, TANF, WIC) pre- and peri-pandemic
- **Research Testing and Validation:** MODRN enables multi-state testing and validation of T-MSIS data in support of enhancements.

Benefits of Collaborating with MODRN

- **Cross-state Comparisons of Medicaid Programs:** The Medicaid Common Data Model (CDM), organizational infrastructure, and analytic tools developed for MODRN can be adapted for use in any Medicaid policy research area by SUPLN partnerships. The Medicaid CDM ensures consistency in data elements and supports standardized measurement of outcomes so that Medicaid policy analyses can be conducted across these states. The data elements contained in the Medicaid CDM can identify clinical populations in Medicaid, and construct measures of health care utilization and outcomes for evaluating policy and program interventions across Medicaid eligibility categories.
- **Access to Established State-University Partnerships:** SUPLN represents 30 partnerships in 26 states. The partnerships are characterized by a deep level of trust and a joint commitment to advancing data-driven state health policy. University researchers have exceptional analytic skills, deep knowledge of state health policy trends, ready access to state Medicaid data, and long-standing relationships with state agencies.
- **Ability to Measure Emerging Medicaid Policies of Priority:** Future MODRN projects of shared Medicaid policy relevance to MODRN include those focused on behavioral and physical health integration, telehealth, maternal mortality and morbidity, social determinants of health, broader substance use disorder (SUD), and many others.

Research Questions MODRN Can Help Answer

- **How did COVID-19 affect Medicaid enrollment?**
- **What factors explain racial inequities in the burden of COVID-19?**
- **What policies are most effective for reducing maternal morbidity and mortality?**
- **What is the burden of unmet mental health needs in Medicaid?**
- **What policies are most effective to improve the quality of treatment for substance use disorders?**

MODRN Successes

The MODRN-Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Project

Guided by the national priority of addressing the opioid epidemic, the National Institutes of Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded MODRN's first project "Examining the quality of opioid use disorder treatment in a Medicaid research network" (R01DA048019). The objective is to provide a comprehensive assessment of OUD treatment quality and outcomes in Medicaid, and to inform policy decisions on coverage and payment for evidence-based OUD treatments in Medicaid. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2781858>

The MODRN Corrections to Community (CtC) Study

Enrolling in Medicaid immediately following incarceration is an important tool to support successful reentry, particularly for individuals with opioid use disorder and other behavioral health conditions. To assess the impact of the different state approaches on OUD treatment and outcomes, with Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) funding, MODRN will explore two types of comparisons: one comparing current MODRN measures across states, and additional comparisons using new measures focused on justice involved individuals.

MODRN Poly-Substance Use Disorders

This MACPAC-funded project analyzed Medicaid enrollment, claims and encounter data to examine the prevalence of diagnoses of polysubstance use disorders, describes the characteristics of Medicaid enrollees with polysubstance use disorders, and compares the mental health and medical comorbidities based on the number of unique substance use disorders.

To learn more about MODRN please visit: academyhealth.org/MODRN