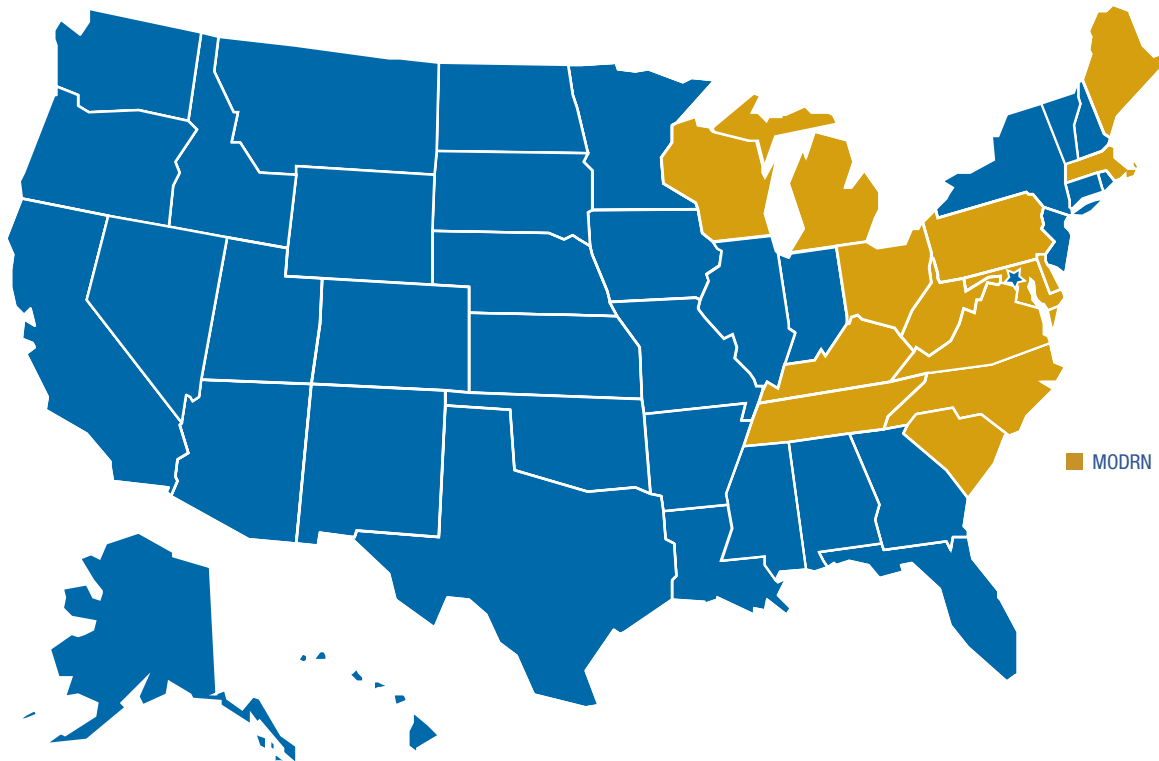


The Medicaid Outcomes Distributed Research Network (MODRN)

Medicaid provides coverage for over 80 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 is limited infrastructure to support multi-state analyses. AcademyHealth's Medicaid Outcomes Distributed Research Network (MODRN) works collaboratively with state Medicaid agencies to support multi-state Medicaid analyses and 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 policy making with a focus on transforming Medicaid-financed healthcare. MODRN focuses on improving quality and equity in healthcare delivery to Medicaid beneficiaries.

Strengths of MODRN

- **Timely Medicaid Analyses:** MODRN analyses with <1 year lag
- **Captures Variation in Medicaid Policies:** MODRN states vary substantially in Medicaid policy, 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 28% of all US Medicaid enrollees¹

1. Based on October 2024 Medicaid & CHIP Enrollment Data Highlights, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Accessed on February 14, 2025. <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-information/medicaid-and-chip-enrollment-data/report-highlights/index.html>

MODRN Research Capabilities

- **Medicaid Enrollment and Eligibility:** MODRN can analyze enrollment and eligibility shifts in Medicaid during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency
- **Medicaid Quality Measures:** MODRN provides an ideal laboratory for developing and testing Medicaid quality measures
- **Maternal Morbidity and Mortality:** Medicaid plays a disproportionate role in covering prenatal and postpartum care and can address disparities in maternal health outcomes
- **Integrating Medicaid and Human Services:** MODRN can assess the cross-program effects of Medicaid and other social welfare programs (e.g., SNAP, TANF, WIC)
- **Research Testing and Validation:** MODRN enables multi-state testing and validation of T-MSIS data in support of enhancements

Benefits of Collaborating with MODRN

- **Valid Comparisons Across State Medicaid Programs:** MODRN's Common Data Model and data coordinating center facilitate standardized analyses developed with input from state-level experts to ensure valid measurement in Medicaid data that accounts for variation in coverage and payment across states.
- **Access to Established State-University Partnerships:** MODRN partners largely include well-established state-university partnerships who all participate in the State University Partnership Learning Network. 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 mental health care, substance use treatment, inequities by race and ethnicity, telehealth, maternal mortality and morbidity, social determinants of health, and many others.

Research Questions MODRN Can Help Answer

- **What quality measures are missing/needed in Medicaid?**
- **How did the COVID-19 public health emergency (and its unwinding) affect Medicaid?**
- **What factors explain racial inequities in health outcomes in Medicaid?**
- **What policies are most effective for reducing maternal morbidity and mortality?**
- **What is the mental health care delivered in Medicaid?**
- **What policies are most effective to improve the quality of treatment for substance use disorders?**

MODRN Projects

Developing Hep B and C Measures for Adult Core Set

Working with federal partners, 7 MODRN states developed Hepatitis B and C screening and treatment measures and examined them for feasibility and actionability in Medicaid programs. The Medicaid Core Set Workgroup has recommended these measures for inclusion in the 2027 Core Set.

Examining the Quality of Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in a Medicaid Research Network

This National Institutes of Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded project (R01DA048019) advances opioid use disorder quality measurement in Medicaid. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2781858>

Improving Racial Equity in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in Medicaid

This NIDA-funded MODRN project (R01DA055585) examines the role of place, provider, plan, and policy factors in addressing racial and ethnic disparities in medication treatment for opioid use disorders.

Improving Quality and Equity of Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Using a Multi-State Medicaid Research Network

This NIDA-funded MODRN project (1RM1DA059365-01) will develop provider-level quality measures for OUD using Medicaid administrative data and measure patient-reported outcomes.

Doula Research for Equitable Advances in Medicaid Pregnancy Health

This Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)-funded project will identify the most effective ways that state Medicaid programs can implement doula care to improve postpartum health among Black people and people of color.

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