

Health Data for Action | Data Providers and Projects

Background

Health Data for Action (HD4A) is a signature research program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) managed by AcademyHealth. HD4A aimed 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 made valuable data from unique data owners available to researchers.

Since the program's inception in 2017, the Foundation has awarded over 60 HD4A grants to researchers to study issues such as care coordination and quality, reproductive health, health care payment structures, chronic and complex conditions, and access to care and treatment, among others. The HD4A program announced the final grantees under the program in 2024, and the program will wind down by the end of 2026. Researchers have utilized available data from 20 different providers, listed in the table below, to conduct their studies. Information on the funded projects is available by clicking on the grant titles below or by visiting the AcademyHealth website at <https://academyhealth.org/about/programs/health-data-action>.

Claims & Encounter Data	Electronic Health Record & Clinical Data	Transparency in Coverage Data	Credit History Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare FFS • T-MSIS • Medicare Advantage • Colorado All-Payer Claims Database, • Health Care Cost Institute • Virginia All-Payer Claims Database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • athenahealth • Geisinger • HealthShare Exchange (HSX) • Nebraska Healthcare Collaborative • New Jersey Integrated Population Health Data (NJ iPHD) • OCHIN • OptumLabs • Truveta 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify Health • Serif Health • Mathematica Data Innovation Lab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experian • TransUnion Healthcare

Claims and Encounter Data

Medicare Fee-For-Service data, from CareJourney by Arcadia

2019

Care Coordination Profiles: Variations Over Time and Geography

University of Maryland

The study examined the role of physicians and other factors in facilitating or hindering care coordination, geographic and other correlations 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

Altarum Institute

The study aimed 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.

Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) data, from CareJourney by Arcadia

2022

Lost in Transition: Gaps in Care Coordination for Young Adults with Complex Medical Conditions

The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois

The goal of the study was to generate evidence that assists state and health plan officials in further programmatic planning to improve care coordination for medically complex young adults, an important and growing population.

The impact of value-based payment reforms on quality and utilization for Medicaid Behavioral Health patients

NYU Grossman School of Medicine

The goal of the study was to provide actionable policy insights on the effects of Medicaid's Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program (DSRIP) for policymakers at the state and federal level by producing causal evidence on the degree to which value-based payment (VBP) programs improve quality and utilization for Medicaid's behavioral health population.

Medicare Advantage Encounter and Enrollment data, from CareJourney by Arcadia

2024

When what you see isn't what you get: Ghost networks in Medicare Advantage

University of Maryland, College Park School of Public Health

The study aims to quantify the depth and breadth of ghost networks in MA, identify enrollees with greater exposure to ghost networks, and to explore whether ghost networks reflect preferences for higher quality providers.

Colorado All-Payer Claims Database, from Center for Improving Value in Health Care (CIVHC)

2022

Examining Medicare Reliance after Implementation of Medicare Payment Reform and the ACA Marketplace

Duke University

The goal of the study was to understand the impacts on patients and payers of dialysis facilities' shifts away from Medicare coverage to private insurance after implementation of the Affordable Care Act Marketplace for purchasing private insurance.

Comparing Healthcare Quality, Costs, and Utilization among Different Models of Telehealth Provision

Weill Medical College of Cornell University

The goal of the study was to assess the extent to which telehealth can provide short-term access to care for different patient populations, as well as the longer-term patterns of telehealth use within different patient populations.

2024

Impact of Public Health Emergency Policies on Medication Use and Follow-up Care Among Youth with Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder

The University of Maryland, Baltimore

The goal of the study is to assess the Public Health Emergency changes in the Medicaid and private payer context.

Effects of Price Transparency on Private Equity Acquisitions and Healthcare Prices: Evidence from Physician Groups and Outpatient Practices

Duke University

The goal of the study is to investigate how private equity (PE) acquisitions of physician groups changed following federal price transparency regulations. This study also utilized price transparency data by Serif Health for investigation.

Health Care Cost Institute

2017

Improving Access and Reducing Financial Burden for Patients on Specialty Drugs

University of Washington

The study aimed to provide evidence to policymakers and health plans to assist them in setting priorities that optimally protect patients who take specialty medications.

Physician Consolidation and Its Effect on Specialist Care: A Causal Analysis with Machine Learning

George Mason University

The goal of the study was to inform policy discussions among federal and state regulators and help payers better understand the implications of physician consolidation into larger practices.

Opioid Prescribing in Pediatric Surgical Patients

Emory University

The study aimed to inform policymakers, pediatric surgeons, and the opioid research community regarding variation in pediatric prescribing practices nationwide and the prevalence of new, persistent opioid acquisition in the pediatric population.

Utilization of Genetic Testing and its Downstream Effects Using Longitudinal Claims Analysis

University of California, Los Angeles

The goal of the study was to assess the uptake of BRCA testing among health plan enrollees and to analyze downstream use of health services and health outcomes post-BRCA testing to inform payers and health systems about preventive and risk reducing procedures in at-risk enrollees.

2019

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

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

The study developed and tested 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

The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York

The study examined whether mothers are receiving the recommended health care after childbirth and explored how the organization and reimbursement of postpartum services affect 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

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic

The study examined 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

University of Kentucky

The study investigated 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

Weill Cornell Medical College

The study examined whether hepatitis C (HCV) treatment that is integrated into primary care has been widely adopted and addressed 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?

The Regents of the University of Michigan

The study explored 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

Weill Cornell Medical College

The study assessed 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

RAND Corporation

The study examined 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.

2022

Evaluating the Impact of Targeted Cancer Drug Value on Utilization and Patient Out-of-Pocket Spending

University of Pennsylvania

The goal of the study was to inform value-based drug pricing policies and provide insights into how to balance the prioritization of high-value targeted cancer drugs with the financial burden of these therapies on patients.

Investigating Effects of State Surprise Billing Regulations on Commercial Insurance Plan Enrollees

The Ohio State University

The goal of the study was to describe the effects of surprise billing protections, including what effects, if any, these laws have on in-network pricing.

2024

Impacts of Abortion Restrictions on Fertility and Maternal Morbidity Outcomes

Trustees of Boston College

The goal of the study is to analyze the impacts of legislative restrictions to abortion care on four outcomes: 1) contraceptive use, 2) fertility outcomes, 3) maternal morbidity and 4) patient contact with doctors pre-birth. They will use quasi-experimental methods, in which they regress reproductive healthcare outcomes on state by year variation in legislation and geographic proximity to abortion clinics.

Understanding Variation in Commercial Payment Rates for Oncology Treatment and Access to Oncology Services

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

The goal of the study is to identify factors that contribute to variation in commercial payment rates for oncology treatment across the US, examine how health system characteristics and market dynamics influence commercial payment rates for oncology services, and evaluate the relationship between reimbursement rates and time to treatment for breast and colorectal cancer patients.

Testing for Spillover Effects from Medicare Policy Changes to Commercial Hospital Outpatient Prices

Congressional Budget Office

The goal of the study is to investigate whether changes in Medicare payments for services provided in hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs) have spillover effects on the payments commercial insurers make for those services. This project represents a research collaboration through a no cost contract between the Congressional Budget Office and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System (T-MSIS) Analytic Files (TAF), from Mathematica Data Innovation Lab

2024

Association of Continuous Medicaid Eligibility During COVID-19 with Postpartum Coverage and Health Care Use

Rutgers University Biomedical and Health Sciences

The goal of the study is to explore the impact of continuous postpartum Medicaid coverage eligibility under the March 2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) on postpartum enrollment and health care use.

Understanding Medical & Social Service Use Among Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Enrolled in Medicaid HCBS Waivers

Regents of the University of Colorado

The goal of the study is to examine medical and social services use among individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) enrolled in Section 1915 home and community-based services (HCBS) waivers, as well as the relationship between paid caregiving and services use by the primary beneficiary.

Virginia All-Payer Claims Database, from Virginia Health Information

2024

Examining Step Therapy Restrictions for Inflammatory Bowel Disease Drugs: A Novel Data Linkage of the SPEC Database and All-Payer Claims Data

Tufts University Medical Center

The goal of the study is to examine the association between step therapy requirements and time to biologic treatment initiation for inflammatory bowel disease, a common and costly chronic condition affecting over 1.3 million Americans.

Lost in Transition: Where do Low Income Young Adults with Special Healthcare Needs (YASHCN) land after they fall off of the Medicaid Cliff?

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

The goal of the study is to answer the following questions: what happens to YASHCN (Young Adults with Special Health-Care Needs) when they age out of public insurance and how does this transition differ for states with Medicaid expansion programs?

Examining Negotiated Rates for Behavioral Health and Primary Care Providers

Virginia Center for Health Innovation

The goal of the study is to inform future Medicaid policy by examining negotiated rates across payers and providers of behavioral health and primary care services in Virginia. This study also utilized price transparency data by Mathematica Data Innovation Lab for investigation.

Electronic Health Record & Clinical Data

athenahealth

2017

Impact of Changing Restaurant Menus on Population Obesity and Disparities

President & Fellows of Harvard College

The study aimed to inform federal, state, and local policymakers interested in tangible interventions to reduce the prevalence of obesity through altering the food environment.

The Influence of Active Living Policies and Environments on Body Weight Outcomes

Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois

The goal of the study was to provide decision makers and advocates with rigorous scientific evidence about the impact that active living policies can have on improving body weight across the lifespan and in subgroups disproportionately impacted by obesity.

2019

Predictive Models of Obesity

University of Delaware

The study aimed to 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

President and Fellows of Harvard College

The study aimed to 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

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

The study aimed to 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 subgroups that may benefit most.

Geisinger

2022

Long-Term Effects of Treatment for Gestational Diabetes in Rural Settings

Georgetown University

The goal of the study was to evaluate the long-term effects and impact of gestational diabetes (GDM) treatment on long-term maternal outcomes among women from rural settings.

Clinical Impact of CONUT score in Cystectomy Patients

University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center

The goal of the study was to inform evidence-based guidelines and practice to prevent and/or manage immediate and long-term effects of cystectomy surgery in bladder cancer patients.

HealthShare Exchange (HSX)

2022

Predictive Modeling of Primary Care Visit Adherence and Emergency Department Use for Patients with Hypertension and Diabetes

Temple University

The goal of the study was to aid health systems and insurers in providing better chronic disease maintenance care, which can reduce morbidity, mortality, and costs for the US healthcare system.

Do Indicators of Social Determinant of Health Improve the Prediction Of COVID-19 Outcomes in A Diverse Cohort of Patients?

Drexel University

The goal of the study was to contribute to the knowledge on COVID-19 inequities and identify population groups and communities at greater risk for adverse COVID-19 outcomes.

2024

Anti-obesity Medication Prescribing Patterns Before and After the Introduction of Medicaid Anti-obesity Medication Coverage

Temple University

The goal of the study is to assess the association of Medicaid anti-obesity medications (AOM) coverage with AOM prescribing patterns among Medicaid enrollees, with a focus on potential disparities by race and ethnicity.

Recurrent Injury and Healthcare in the Philadelphia Region

Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania

The goal of the study is to identify rates of and risk factors for recurrent violent injury in the Philadelphia region for all survivors, and specifically for Hospital-based violence intervention programs (HVIP) participants.

Nebraska Healthcare Collaborative

2024

Postpartum Care Disparities in Women with Gestational Diabetes: Current Care Patterns and Opportunities for Improving Outcomes

University of Nebraska Medical Center

The goal of the study is to provide actionable evidence to assist state officials and other stakeholders, such as insurers, clinicians, hospital administrators, and policymakers in crafting more impactful policy and programmatic interventions for postpartum health care among women with gestational diabetes.

New Jersey Integrated Population Health Data (NJ iPHD)

2024

Trends in Fatal and Nonfatal Opioid-Related Overdoses among Pregnant and Postpartum Women Living in NJ

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

The goal of the study is to improve maternal health outcomes during dual national maternal health and opioid crises, providing evidence on the impact of postpartum coverage extensions for birthing people with opioid use disorder.

Impacts of Obstetric Unit Closures on Maternal and Infant Health in New Jersey

The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois

The goal of the study is to help policymakers improve access to high-quality maternity care and improve maternal and infant health by addressing any adverse impacts of obstetric unit closures on the referral of maternity care patients to risk-appropriate hospitals.

OCHIN

2022

Delivering Integrated Care for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness and Chronic Disease: Examining the Potential of FQHCs

Fordham University

The goal of the study was to generate specific information about how individuals with severe mental illness (SMI) and chronic disease utilize integrated behavioral health (IBH) services within Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), what level of IBH leads to best outcomes for this group, and what sources of variation affect this relationship.

Exploring the Impact of Rapid Telehealth Uptake: New Implications of the Digital Divide

Massachusetts General Hospital

The goal of the study was to examine national and regional trends in telehealth uptake and to inform ongoing expansion of telehealth access in the context of broader technological expansion.

2024

Using household linkages in the OCHIN database to study TB infection care

Boston Medical Center Corporation

The goal of the study is to innovate tuberculosis (TB) infection screening strategies and advance care delivery for this pervasive infection.

Assessing and Addressing Cardiovascular Health of Sexual & Gender Minorities

Boston Medical Center Corporation

The goal of the study is to highlight various opportunities to develop tailored individual and population-level interventions specific to the cardiovascular health of sexual and gender minority (SGM) persons (e.g., lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex [LGBTQI+]).

Harnessing OCHIN Data to Address Social Determinants of Health for the Achievement of Behavioral Health Equity

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

The goal of the study is to generate important, significant, and policy-relevant information aimed at upstream solutions to improve population health and well-being, including the need for innovative service and payment models that integrate medical and social services.

OptumLabs

2019

Severe Storms and Asthma Exacerbation Among Children

Brown University

The study estimated 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

Congressional Budget Office

The study examined 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 represented 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

University of Nebraska Medical Center

The study examined 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

Ariadne Labs

The study examined 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

George Mason University

The study examined 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 antidepressants.

Labor Market Causes and Consequences of Prescription Opioids

University of California, Berkeley

The study examined 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.

Truveta, in partnership with Mathematica Data Innovation Lab

2024

Examining the Contribution of Air Pollution to Disparities in Pregnancy Morbidity

PSE Health Energy

The goal of the study is to assess the role of air pollution exposure in disparities in preeclampsia and pregnancy loss for the study population of all singleton pregnancies in Truveta's nationwide catchment area between 2018–2019.

Identification, Precursors, and Outcomes of Firearm Injuries in Real-World Data

Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund

The goal of the study is to examine the identification, precursors, and outcomes of firearm injuries using real world data (RWD).

Transparency in Coverage Data

Clarify Health

2024

Classifying the Payment Basis of Hospital-Insurer Contracts

Stanford University

The goal of the study is to examine and classify the payment and pricing bases for hospital-health plan contracts.

Using Transparency in Coverage Data to Understand Health Care Price Variation

Brown University

The goal of the study is to document and describe health care price variation across procedures, providers, insurers, and markets.

Serif Health

2024

Effects of Price Transparency on Private Equity Acquisitions and Healthcare Prices: Evidence from Physician Groups and Outpatient Practices

Duke University

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Mathematica Data Innovation Lab

2024

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Credit History Data

Experian

2022

How does enrollment in Medicare Advantage affect financial health?

Brown University

The goal of the study was to generate policy-relevant findings about the potential impacts of the Medicare Advantage program on financial outcomes and on racial/ethnic disparities in financial risk-protection.

TransUnion Healthcare

2022

Socio-Economic Assessment of Communities during the COVID-19 Recession

Utica University

The goal of the study was to improve understanding of the uneven socio-economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on communities in New York, North Carolina, Arizona, California, Virginia, and Texas.