We are so pleased to provide this brief summary of selected IHPP accomplishments in our 2019 Annual Report. Please visit our website to learn more about our projects and skill sets. Our funders and partners make all of this possible, and we thank them for their support and collaboration. We are honored to work with so many dedicated people to improve the lives of people in the Granite State.

With sincere appreciation,

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The Institute for Health Policy and Practice (IHPP) is an applied research institute located within the College of Health and Human Services at the University of New Hampshire. IHPP conducts and disseminates high-quality, cutting-edge applied research and policy work that enables health system partners to implement evidence-based strategies to improve population health.

**IHPP 2019 HIGHLIGHTS**

- **$4,712,065** grants & contracts
- **47** projects
- **30** funding sources
- **43** conferences & presentations
- **10** publications
HEALTH ANALYTICS AND INFORMATICS

APCD Council

The All-Payer Claim Database (APCD) Council, which is a collaboration between IHPP and the National Association of Health Data Organizations, had another busy year in 2019. After two years of development with the APCD Council Learning Network, we kicked off the year with the official release of Version 1 of the APCD-CDL™.

The team also found itself busy writing comments to the following proposed Federal policy or amendments to existing policy in 2019:

- In January, the APCD Council Leadership Team submitted comments to the proposed “Reforming America’s Healthcare System Through Choice and Competition.” Comments were submitted to Secretaries Azar, Mnuchin and Acosta.
- In June, the APCD Council Leadership Team submitted comments in response to the Senate HELP Committee discussion draft of the “Lower Health Care Costs Act.”
- In September, the APCD Council Leadership Team submitted comments to the proposed CMS CY 2020 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) and Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Payment System Proposed Rule.
- In October, the APCD Council Leadership Team submitted comments to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), around proposed changes to Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records, 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2, also known as 42 CFR part 2.

The development of these comments included outreach to states, legislators, Federal agencies and many other APCD stakeholders. The work on the Lower Health Care Costs Act, and, surprise medical bills, continues in 2020.

Claims-based Diabetes and Breast Cancer Analysis

On behalf of the Division of Public Health Services at the NH Department of Health and Human Services, the Center for Health Analytics provided a first of its kind analysis focused on estimating the incidence, prevalence, utilization of screening services and costs of healthcare services for individuals with diabetes and breast cancer. Analysis included commercial, Medicaid Managed Care and Medicare claims.
IHPP serves as the lead facilitator for convening New Hampshire’s State Health Assessment/State Health Improvement Plan Advisory Council, which is tasked with developing a state-based health assessment to inform the state’s health improvement plan for the next 10 years. The goal of the improvement plan is to provide guidance to public health to improve the health of NH’s population.
The Partnership for Academic-Clinical Telepractice (PACT) Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) program is a collaboration with the Department of Nursing at UNH, establishing longitudinal nurse practitioner student placements at practice sites across NH in rural and underserved communities. PACT-ANEW assists community practice primary care Nurse Practitioner (NP) preceptors in rural and underserved areas by providing professional development opportunities and educational supports. Longitudinal placements increase NP self-efficacy in managing patients with Opiate Use Disorder. The program establishes PACT community participant sites and offers more than $350,000 dollars annually in tuition funds to graduate family nurse practitioner students. In addition, the Project ECHO® model is used to connect community-based sites, providers, and students to teach and to promulgate best practices.
The **Planning for Project ECHO® in New Hampshire** report was developed based on analysis of data from New Hampshire’s all-payer claims database, the NH Comprehensive Health Information System, and from a survey of and interviews with partner health care providers and stakeholders throughout the state. Key findings were presented to develop a model strategy for implementing Project ECHO, with considerations for long-term sustainability and structure.

The Northern New England Practice Transformation Network (NNE-PTN), in partnership with Maine Quality Counts and Vermont Program for Quality in Healthcare, Inc., offered technical assistance for implementing data collection, billing and coding analysis, quality payment reporting, electronic health record and process, and patient population registry development. The program provided in-person and remote practice facilitation using quality improvement science, with an estimated $89M saved by participating practices through avoided in-patient stays and emergency department visits and an additional $18M savings achieved by managing population blood pressure.
In 2018, New Hampshire law changed to accommodate new requirements to develop Plans of Safe Care (POSC) for families when an infant is born affected by prenatal drug or fetal alcohol exposure in order to support mothers, infants, and their families. In 2019, the IHPP Health Law and Policy team continued its work with the Perinatal Substance Exposure Task Force, funded by the NH Charitable Foundation, exploring ways to eliminate barriers to care for pregnant women with substance use disorders and supporting development of best practices for New Hampshire’s POSCs implementation. Part of this work included a presentation at the January Summit to Address Plans of Safe Care, which was attended by over 300 people, preparing materials for and participating in numerous training sessions including the monthly Northern New England Perinatal Quality Improvement Network webinars, and supporting work groups to foster collaboration and support for the care and treatment of prenatal, pregnant and parenting mothers with substance use and their families.
New Hampshire Doorway/State Opioid Response Grant Technical Assistance

The State Opioid Response Grant is a two year award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to help DHHS and substance use disorder providers combat the opioid crisis in New Hampshire, and address unmet treatment needs, opioid overdose deaths and barriers to medication assisted treatment (MAT). SOR funding led to the expansion of 2-1-1 Granite United Way and the establishment of The Doorways on January 1, 2019. The 9 Doorway locations throughout the State create clear points of entry, assessment, referrals and support for any resident with an opioid use disorder (OUD) and 2-1-1 assists callers by connecting them with social service agencies and the Doorway program. The Doorways are able to specifically help with transportation, respite shelter and recovery housing. IHPP’s Health Law and Policy group has provided technical assistance and strategic planning support to NH DHHS SOR team and the Doorways to assist with implementation, policy development, and ongoing support as the project expands.

Health Care Costs: Key Federal and State Strategies

In April 2019, UNH School of Law, IHPP, Health Law and Policy Programs, hosted a discussion of the nation’s health care system, including federal and state responses and strategies to address cost growth. US Senator Maggie Hassan was the keynote speaker, discussing federal strategies; health cost hearings before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; legislation to combat "surprise billing"; and the importance of advocacy. Both Lucy Hodder and Jo Porter presented and invited a panel of experts to discuss health costs and state responses.
LONG TERM CARE AND AGING

Person-Centered Options Counseling Certification

In partnership with NH’s Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services, a first of its kind certification for Person-Centered Options Counseling (PCOC) has been developed. Designed to educate and support staff who are navigating the coordination of options in long term care and social services, the certification process leverages a combination of in-person education, online learning, and an extensive shadowing and mentor process to give candidates real in-person experience with clients. Piloted with ServiceLink Resource Center staff, the certification process will enter its second round of candidates in 2020.
April 2019 was a busy month for the Long Term Care and Aging focus area. Under the umbrella of our collaboration with the UNH Institute on Disability (IOD) as the Center on Aging and Community Living (CACL), we held our annual Age of Champions Health Fair; It’s never too soon to age well! This year we paired Age of Champions with Innovations in Healthy Aging: An Applied Research Summit. Through these two events, staff, faculty and students from IHPP, IOD, Department of Recreation Management and Policy, and Department of Health Management and Policy brought the community and long-term care providers together to celebrate and discuss aging well.

A variety of UNH Departments and Programs were involved, including:

- Anthropology
- Center on Aging & Community Living
- Communications Science & Disorders
- Didactic Program in Dietetics
- Health Management and Policy
- Institute for Health Policy and Practice
- Institute on Disability
- Kinesiology/Exercise Science
- NH Citizens Health Initiative
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy