



# Health Policy and Health Services Research

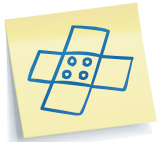
Health care expenditures account for nearly 20% of the U.S. economy, and we face an aging population as well as increasing societal inequity. Health policy and health services research offer unprecedented opportunities for improving the health care system in the United States and beyond.

delivering **the promise of science**  
for global good





RTI International's work sits at the heart of the **triple aim** — **improving quality** and **population health** while also **reducing the costs** of care. Our multidisciplinary team of nearly 700 researchers focuses on social policy, health, and economics research — bringing rigor, objectivity, and deep experience to every project. With emphasis on research, program design, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination, we have a broad impact in several areas.



### Health Care Value

Our longstanding work in financing and payment, as well as in quality and outcomes, brings depth of expertise to both sides of the value equation. Our work analyzes costs and utilization, with attention to the role of financial

incentives, risk adjustment, and innovative payment methods (such as value-based payment). We also focus on designing, implementing, and evaluating programs to improve quality of care and patient safety.



### At-Risk and Vulnerable Populations

We study a wide range of policy issues related to the older population and persons with disabilities. Our work focuses on availability, access, and financing for a wide range of health care, long-term care, and related social services in the United States and other countries. We focus on end-of-life, palliative, and hospice care and demonstrating the quality and value of hospice care,

addressing public reporting of hospice quality measures, and focusing on payment systems for hospice care. Our work also seeks to advance the health and well-being of underserved populations, with a focus on low-income and uninsured populations, health equity, and children and adolescents.



### Quality Measurement

We develop and implement national health care performance measures across a variety of health care settings. We also develop, implement, and maintain

standardized data collection vehicles and measure specifications, incorporating health information technology (health IT) to enable data interoperability.



### Health IT

We study the impact of health IT across the health system, including issues such as health care quality and safety. We also develop new methods for using

health information to support research and conduct policy analysis to support a data-driven, transformational health system.



### Behavioral Health

We assess the benefits and costs of treatment programs and health interventions targeting mental health and

substance abuse problems; we also help policymakers evaluate behavioral health policy alternatives.



## Advanced Methods Development

Our work on advanced methods focuses on developing new quantitative and qualitative methods that further our ability to analyze complex data and research questions; our work also focuses on methods for developing, synthesizing, and presenting evidence to support decision making.

## Core Capabilities

### Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods

- Economic and statistical modeling, such as simulation modeling, propensity scoring and other methods to develop matched comparison groups, and risk adjustment models
- Analyses of large claims (Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurer) data; administrative data; and survey data
- Qualitative data collection and analysis, including site visits, focus groups, technical expert panels, key informant interviews, environmental scans, and cutting-edge analytic approaches

### Developing Quality Measures

- Design, analysis, and implementation of quality measures for a wide variety of providers and programs
- Technical assistance to providers to ensure high-quality data collection, measurement, and reporting
- Expertise in key processes, including National Quality Forum measure endorsement and maintenance requirements and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Measures Management System Blueprint

### Survey Research

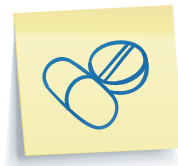
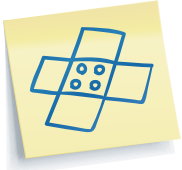
- Study design, instrument development and evaluation, and pretests and pilot studies for multiple survey modes (including mail, telephone, face-to-face, web, and mixed-mode surveys)
- Record abstraction, collection of biological specimens, health registries, and subject tracing

### Clinical Informatics

- Program and complex systems evaluation; user-centered design; usability and heuristic analysis; and data analytics including data extraction, harmonization, management, and visualization
- Clinical decision support, consumer health informatics, mobile health and sensor technologies, health IT safety and quality, electronic health record data extraction and use, health IT implementation in complex environments, and practice and workflow redesign

### Statistical and Data Science

- Survey research, including sampling, weighting and imputation, non-sampling error analysis, small area estimation, and statistical disclosure control
- Complex data analytics, including Bayesian methods, data mining, and predictive modeling



## Our Impact

- Our work is used by federal health care programs to distribute billions of dollars of payments annually to health plans and providers.
- We use data science—including data visualization—natural language processing, social network analysis, geospatial analytics, and big data technologies.
- The health care quality measures we develop and maintain allow patients and families the ability to make informed choices when selecting a provider and help providers understand areas in which they can improve.
- Our research informs the organization, quality, and financing of long-term care services in the United States.
- Our researchers help government agencies and private organizations advance the safe and effective use of health IT.
- We help hospitals provide safe care for mothers and newborns during labor and delivery.
- We are implementing a program that pays for cancer care services in new ways that will help CMS improve quality and save money for Medicare beneficiaries.

## Making the Evidence Useful

We focus on developing rigorous evidence while simultaneously making our products practical and useful.

- Our work on program evaluation focuses on understanding what works and how it works, along with what is needed for replicability and sustainability to take programs into the future.
- We synthesize evidence from a wide variety of sources—using techniques such as systematic reviews, meta-analysis, and qualitative comparative analysis—with a focus on presenting data in ways that are meaningful to, and actionable by, our clients.
- Our work on translating research and evaluation findings into practice includes implementation science, tailored training and technical assistance, and innovative dissemination strategies.
- We focus on storytelling in our products, making our research results relatable to key audiences such as policymakers and health care providers.

### More Information

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