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Center for HOPES |
2023 Annual Report |

Advancing
Health Advocacy and
Co-creating solutions



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND
POLICY EVALUATION STUDIES



The Center for HOPES

Leveraging research for health and equity

Mission

Our mission is to support health equity and social justice through rigorous and innovative policy research and evaluation.



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Letter from the Director

Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Supporters,

It is with great pleasure that I present the annual report for the Center for Health Outcomes Policy and Evaluation Studies at The Ohio State University. Reflecting back on the accomplishments and strides, 2023 saw the Center, its staff, and affiliates make important contributions in the pursuit of our mission to improve health equity through rigorous policy research and evaluation.

Throughout the year, our researchers have made significant research contributions ranging from their work supporting the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to improve access and care for individuals facing their first episode of psychosis to assisting the City of Columbus to assess the health needs of sexual and gender minorities.

Our commitment to community engagement remains unwavering, as we continue to advance the university's land grant mission of addressing the needs of our local community. In 2023, our Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives was doubly recognized by the university for her expertise in community engagement, serving as an expert trainer for the university's Office of Foundation Relations on community engagement for patient centered research and as a 2023 recipient of the ETHOS award for exemplifying the university's shared values and commitments to excellence diversity and innovation.

As we look ahead to the future, we are excited to build upon the successes of 2023 and further advance our core mission. In the coming year, we will continue to expand our on campus research collaborations, foster greater community engagement in pursuit of OSU's land grant mission, and seek out new partners who share our drive to improve healthcare delivery and public health practice.

Our goal is to help governments, communities, and organizations to better understand the impact of programs and policies. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, or if you are interested in partnering with the Center for HOPES.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR HEALTH OUTCOMES AND
POLICY EVALUATION STUDIES

Sincerely yours,

Eric Seiber



Director, Center for HOPES
Professor, Health Services Management and Policy
The Ohio State University College of Public Health



Center Growth and Personnel

In 2023, the Center for HOPES continues to build on its two-decade history. Since its establishment in 1994, the Center has been dedicated to addressing the changing needs of health policymakers at different levels. Committed to advancing health equity and justice, our focus is on practical, community-driven work in line with our mission. This year, we welcomed three valuable additions to our [team](#). Katie Kenney assumed the role of Science and Dissemination Lead, contributing to the scientific rigor and dissemination strategies of our projects. Our new Data Scientist, Srinivasan Sridhar, enhances our analytical capabilities, while Naveen Qureshi, joining as a Data Analyst, strengthens our ability to derive insights from complex datasets.

As we look back on our growth, 2023 stands out as a year where the Center for HOPES excelled in public health research, policy, and advocacy.

A special acknowledgment goes to Anne Trinh, our Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives, for receiving the 2023 ETHOS Award in Excellence and Impact from the Ohio State University College of Public Health. The ETHOS Awards recognize individuals who exemplify shared values of excellence, impact, diversity, innovation, inclusion, equity, care, compassion, integrity, and respect. Ms. Trinh was honored for exceptional leadership, championing over a dozen health equity research projects and demonstrating excellence in collaboration.

Budget Summary

The Center for HOPES secures an annual core funding of \$163,000 from the Board of Trustees. Despite some staff members transitioning to roles outside of HOPES in 2022 and 2023, and the addition of 3 new staff members in 2023, the Center maintained a steady payroll expenditure at approximately \$770,000 during this period. Notably, we increased our current reserves by \$94,000. Looking ahead to 2024, our strategy involves further fortifying the reserve account/bridge to address potential funding shortfalls. Simultaneously, we plan to generate revenue from our recently established earnings unit, dedicated to funding essential health policy initiatives.



Staff

Director | **Eric Seiber, PhD**

Dr. Seiber is an expert in the areas of health economics and policy and is a professor in the Division of Health Services Management and Policy. He specializes in health care financing, especially for vulnerable populations; public and private insurance markets; and cost-effectiveness analysis. Since the fall of 2020, Dr. Seiber has served on Governor DeWine's Ohio Economic Roundtable focusing on State revenue forecasting models specific to pandemic effects.

Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives | **Anne Trinh, MPH**

Ms. Trinh brings expertise in public health, epidemiology, evaluation, and collective impact. She previously worked as a maternal and child health epidemiologist at Columbus Public Health and as a chronic disease epidemiologist at the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center, serving Tribes and American Indian populations in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. She serves as a board member for Harm Reduction Ohio and as the Chair for Data and Research for the Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition.

Director of Health Services Research | **Saira Nawaz, PhD, MPH**

Dr. Nawaz's expertise lies in health services research, health insurance claims data, and program evaluation. She provides methodological support in claims research, evaluation, and cost analysis. Dr. Nawaz previously worked as a biostatistician at Nationwide Children's Hospital and as an evaluation specialist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Research Scientist | **Wilson Figueroa, PhD, MS**

Dr. Figueroa brings expertise in health psychology, social science research design, and data analytics. He previously worked as a research associate at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Science in the College of Medicine and Department of Extension in the College of Food, Agriculture, and Environmental Sciences at Ohio State.

Operations Manager | **Morgan Spahn**

Mr. Spahn brings five years of dedicated public health experience, with a focus in epidemiological research benefiting the LGBTQ+ community. His experience combines



strategic thinking and operational expertise, evident in his successful management of complex projects and leadership of cross-functional teams. Passionate about health equity, Mr. Spahn is committed to making a positive impact in health research alongside a dedicated team at HOPES.

Evaluation Associate | **Ella Lewie**

Ms. Lewie serves as an Evaluation Associate at HOPES. She brings expertise in social science research, public policy analysis, project design, and community engagement to the team. Prior to joining the Center, Ms. Lewie worked as a Policy Fellow for The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio where she co-developed and co-authored a two-year study that evaluated Ohio drug courts. She also has prior experience working in healthcare, serving as a trauma-informed hospital advocate for The Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio.

Science and Dissemination Lead | **Katie Kenney**

Ms. Kenney joins HOPES in 2023 as our Science and Dissemination Lead. She is a Biomedical Engineer currently pursuing a Master's in Engineering Management at OSU. For the past twelve years, she has worked at Nationwide Children's Hospital focusing on infant physiology/pathophysiology and health outcomes.

Data Scientist | **Srinivasan Sridhar**

Mr. Sridhar joins HOPES in 2023 as a Data. He specializes in data analytics and brings his skills in leveraging data for understanding patient outcomes, costs, and health policy evaluations. Before joining HOPES, Mr. Sridhar was a Biostatistical Intern at Oracle Cerner. He got his Ph.D. in Industrial Management and Systems Management Engineering at Montana State University (Bozeman) in 2022. His research emphasizes enhancing health outcomes and experience for both patients and clinicians.

Data Analyst | **Naveen Qureshi**

Ms. Qureshi joins HOPES in 2023 as a Data Analyst. She brings expertise in maternal and child health research, COVID-19, and the opioid response. Prior to her role at the Center, Ms. Qureshi served as an Epidemiologist and Data Analyst with the CDC Foundation, playing an instrumental role in managing public health responses with state and local health departments in Ohio. Naveen is dedicated to fostering health equity and championing diversity.



Students | **Emma Jankowski, Michael Partridge, Rachel Mason & Kyle Moon**

Interacting with students is a vibrant element of our Center, injecting fresh ideas and perspectives into our work. We deeply value their significant contributions. Concurrently, our research and evaluation initiatives offer students a rewarding platform to apply their expertise, aligning with their academic interests. These experiences, alongside impactful collaborations with our partners, aspire to be stepping stones for students transitioning into prosperous careers. In 2023, we engaged with four dedicated students: Emma Jankowski, Michael Partridge, Rachel Mason, and Kyle Moon.



New Project Highlights

In 2023, the Center for HOPES experienced growth in both funding and collaboration, as reflected in projects and service contracts initiated by the Center, those shaped by community input, and those with a university-wide impact. This expansion underscores our diverse and robust partnerships throughout Ohio State and Central Ohio.

Ohio health improvement zones pilot project

The Center for HOPES is partnering with Nationwide Children's Hospital, in collaboration with the South Side Thrive Collaborative, on the Ohio Health Improvement Zone (OHIZ) Pilot Project (O123), which is funded by the Ohio Department of Health. The "South Side Columbus OHIZ" initiative aims to boost the use of healthy living resources, particularly food assistance programs and primary care services, with the goal of reducing the prevalence of chronic diseases among residents of the South Side Columbus OHIZ. The project, undertaken in partnership with nine Health Improvement Partners organizations, focuses on two key objectives: expanding the "Living Well in the South Side" campaign, which seeks to address health disparities through culturally sensitive outreach and awareness activities connecting residents to local wellness programs, and implementing a screening and referral partnership with PrimaryOne Health. This partnership involves dedicated staff conducting outreach, engaging individuals on their social service needs, and efficiently connecting them to local resources, with a special emphasis on food assistance programs and healthcare service providers.

Developing a patient navigation intervention to improve risk management among women at high risk of breast cancer

The Center for HOPES is collaborating as a co-investigator on an R21 project funded by the National Cancer Institute. This project aims to design, develop, and test a multi-dimensional patient navigation (PN) intervention to support high-risk women in adopting risk-management behaviors related to breast cancer prevention. This project will conduct semi-structured interviews with high-risk Black and White women to determine specific information, types of support, barrier reductions, and provider referrals that would facilitate risk-management adoption. Baseline and final surveys after eight months will assess the primary hypothesis that most intervention-arm participants will be satisfied with the PN intervention, along with other feasibility benchmarks.



Williams County Health District strategic planning

The Center for HOPES facilitated the creation of Williams County Health District's (WCHD) strategic plan. HOPES staff guided WCHD through orientation sessions, environmental scans, and strategic planning meetings. These sessions aimed to bring together WCHD staff, Board members, and community stakeholders, fostering open discussions on priorities, goals, and action plans. Together, HOPES and WCHD worked collaboratively to craft a strategic plan that reflects the aspirations of the community and the vision of WCHD. HOPES was able to map out a strategy that aligns with the unique needs and objectives of Williams County.

Overdose to Action (OD2A) drug testing protocol evaluation

The Center for HOPES is tasked with evaluating the impact of Franklin County Public Health's (FCPH) Overdose to Action (OD2A) drug testing protocol. FCPH secured a 5-year, \$3.7 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the Overdose Data to Action: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities (OD2A: LOCAL) initiative. This grant, awarded through the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, signifies a substantial investment in addressing Mental Health and Addiction. The OD2A: LOCAL funding aims to expand existing programs and establish interconnected networks of care among the community, public safety, and local health systems. Building upon the foundation laid by a previous three-year CDC grant, FCPH seeks to leverage this new funding to enhance data collection, inform prevention and response efforts, and continue combating the opioid crisis. The evaluation conducted by the Center for HOPES will assess the effectiveness and impact of the OD2A: LOCAL initiative, contributing to the ongoing efforts to address substance abuse and promote public health in Franklin County.

DECIDE: treatment of gestational diabetes comparative effectiveness trial

In partnership with The Ohio State University College of Medicine, the Center for HOPES is beginning work on a project focused on gestational diabetes, which has seen a troubling increase among pregnant individuals. The study received a \$12 million funding award from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Gestational diabetes affects nearly 75,000 pregnant individuals annually in the United States and has seen a



30% rise in cases since 2016, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The study, led by Kartik Venkatesh, MD, PhD, and Mark Landon, MD, compares the effectiveness of oral metformin versus injectable insulin in treating gestational diabetes. With a consortium of 20 institutions, the project aims to enroll over 1,500 pregnant individuals with gestational diabetes, following them and their infants for at least two years post-delivery. The multi-disciplinary team includes maternal-fetal medicine specialists, pediatricians, endocrinologists, statisticians, public health experts, and patient advocates. Notably, the project is designed to produce results applicable to diverse patient populations and care settings, with the goal of informing clinical practice and improving patient outcomes. This study underscores the Center for HOPES' commitment to evidence-based policymaking and advancing health equity.

COVID-19 Equity Rebuilding for Resilient Communities (Project CERRC)

The Center for HOPES is the evaluation partner for AltaMed's COVID-19 Equity Rebuilding for Resilient Communities (Project CERRC), while also providing technical assistance in data infrastructure development and analysis for policy advocacy integration. The project involves several key activities, including the development of an evaluation logic model, establishment of data collection processes, staff training on data collection tools, active collaboration with AltaMed project leadership, virtual site visits to review program impact, and the delivery of a comprehensive project evaluation. Through this collaboration, OSU HOPES aims to support equitable community rebuilding efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Central Ohio regional climate action planning process: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

The Central Ohio Regional Climate Action Planning Process, spearheaded by Sustainable Columbus in collaboration with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), Power A Clean Future Ohio (PCFO), IMPACT Community Action, and The Ohio State University's College of Public Health and Center for HOPES, is actively engaged in the US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) initiative. This grant aims to assist local governments in devising and implementing plans to mitigate harmful air pollutants, particularly greenhouse gas emissions. Columbus, with its concentration of low-income disadvantaged communities and environmental burdens, has been identified as a key focal point for this endeavor. Through extensive community engagement efforts,



top pollution priorities were identified, including air quality concerns, water quality, waste management, and energy efficiency. Building upon this feedback and current data, potential strategies to reduce air pollution and emissions have been outlined, spanning areas such as regional transit enhancement, energy efficiency improvements, green space preservation, and waste reduction initiatives. The project timeline encompasses meaningful engagement with residents and community partners, identification of pollution reduction strategy priorities, and the development of a Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) and the City of Columbus Climate Action Plan (CCAP), with completion slated for Spring 2025. Through its leadership in community engagement and planning efforts, the Center for HOPES is playing a pivotal role in advancing regional climate action and promoting environmental justice in Central Ohio.

Mixed-methods evaluation of integrated civic engagement model (ICEM)

The Center for HOPES is collaborating with the California Primary Care Association (CPCA) and AltaMed to evaluate the implementation of an Integrated Civic Engagement Model (ICEM) called the My Vote. My Health.™ campaign, funded by The California Endowment. This initiative aims to empower underrepresented Latine communities across six regions in California to participate in civic engagement to address health-related issues. Through the dissemination of civic engagement toolkits and campaign materials, community health centers, community based organizations, and regional associations of California will be equipped to engage patients and communities in the civic process. HOPES, serving as the independent evaluator, will assess the program's effectiveness in increasing civic engagement and reducing health disparities among Latine communities. The evaluation will focus on process and outcome measures, including program implementation quality and its effects on civic engagement and health disparities. Data collection and analysis will be conducted by HOPES, utilizing mixed methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the program's impact.

Elevate 2.0 evaluation for FACCES

The Family, Adolescent and Child Community Engagement Service (FACCES) has been awarded the Elevate 2.0 grant by the City of Columbus to enhance their Urban Food Education Program, focusing on chronic disease prevention. This grant aims to build capacity within FACCES and establish an evidence base for community-driven solutions to address chronic diseases. The Center for HOPES will collaborate closely with FACCES to evaluate their program and assist in meeting the reporting requirements set by the



grant. This partnership will involve establishing standardized quantitative data collection methods and creating a robust data management plan for FACCES' Urban Food Education Program. Year 1 of the project will focus on developing a comprehensive evaluation plan, including baseline process measures for all program initiatives.

Publications

Center for HOPES [publications](#) in 2023:

Evaluation of the COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign ¡Ándale! ¿Qué Esperas? in Latinx Communities in California, June 2021–May 2022	<i>Public Health Reports</i>
Policy complexities in financing first episode psychosis services: Implementation realities from a home rule state	<i>Journal of Behavioral Health Services & Research</i>
Service trends among non-obstetrics/gynecology providers in the U.S.: Long-acting reversible contraception insertions, removals, and re-insertions	<i>Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare</i>
Differential risks of syringe service program participants in Central Ohio: A latent class analysis	<i>Harm Reduction Journal</i>
Costs of Coordinated Specialty Care for First-Episode Psychosis: A Microcosting Analysis	<i>Psychiatric Services</i>
Patient Priorities, Decisional Comfort, and Satisfaction with Metformin versus Insulin for the Treatment of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus	<i>American Journal of Perinatology</i>
ED visits for schizophrenia spectrum disorders during the COVID-19 pandemic across five University of California campus health systems: A time-series analysis	<i>JAMA Network Open</i>



Continuing Efforts

ADDICTION
prevention
&
treatment

HEALing Communities Study (HCS)

The National Institutes of Health funds a four-state research study, including Ohio, to test the impact of an integrated set of evidence-based interventions across health care, behavioral health, justice, and other community-based settings on addiction called the Communities That Heal (CTH) approach. The goal of the study is to treat opioid use disorder within highly affected communities and reduce opioid related deaths by 40 percent over three years. The Center for HOPES provides support for project direction and management and serves as the Ohio lead for the study's Policy Tracking activities and for the Health Economics core, for which we coordinate a cost-effectiveness analysis for Ohio's implementation of the CTH. We work closely with the Wexner Medical Center, University of Cincinnati, Case Western Reserve University, Research Triangle Institute, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)

The Overdose Data to Action grant was awarded to Franklin County Public Health (FCPH) via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Center for HOPES established data use agreements between the City of Columbus and various emergency medical services agencies to streamline overdose data downloaded to the Franklin County Opioid Crisis Activity Levels (FOCAL) Map. Dr. Ayaz Hyder facilitated a geocoding training, including data preparation, uploading, geocoding options, understanding geocoding results, and troubleshooting, for Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) staff. Several improvements were made to FOCAL map to facilitate end user experience, including improvement in the organization of layers and increased automation of data pipeline to reduce the amount of manual effort required to ingest new data.

COVID
response
&
recovery

Community Health Worker Equity Response

The Center for HOPES continued its partnerships in southern California to evaluate efforts to increase COVID-19 vaccinations among the Latinx community through a community health worker, or *promotora*, -led model. This work is led by AltaMed, the nation's largest federally qualified health center, and supported by multiple community-based clinics and organizations throughout the state, including Latino Health Access (LHA), a community-



based nonprofit in Orange County. New funding from the Health Resources and Services During site visits, Center evaluators observed first-hand how *promotores* operate as trusted partners in their community and stand to make valuable contributions to evaluation and sustainability efforts, despite the instability they face as a workforce.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) for COVID Response and Resilient Communities (CCR)

The Center for HOPES, along with Health Impact Ohio, were selected as the lead subgrantees for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Community Health Workers (CHWs) for COVID Response and Resilient Communities (CCR) Grant* to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The aim of the program is to reduce health disparities and improve health equity in the state of Ohio by expanding use of CHWs to address COVID-19 disparities. The Center for HOPES serves as the lead evaluator, collecting performance data throughout implementation of the grant to conduct both process and outcomes evaluations of the training and deployment of CHWs and their contribution to building community resilience.

COVID-19 data collection, evaluation, mobilization and capacity building services

The Center for HOPES received funding from the City of Columbus to address and rectify COVID-19 disparities and champion health equity. This project involves mixed-methods analysis, dissecting Columbus Public Health's (CPH) and its grant partners' outreach and engagement activities. Simultaneously, the initiative delves into an analysis of historical policies and practices contributing to health disparities, unraveling insights into the systemic roots of inequities. At its core is the development of a robust health equity measurement framework and dashboard, articulating short-, intermediate-, and long-term indicators specific to COVID-19 planning, response, and outcomes. This extends to a strategic process to engage CPH employees, partners, collaborators, and community stakeholders around this framework. Moreover, the project integrates a sustainability plan, charting a course for CPH to employ the Health Equity Measurement Framework expansively in addressing future public health crises, and a comprehensive capacity-building strategy aimed at enhancing CPH staff capabilities in health equity and COVID-19 disparities. The project also emphasizes community capacity building, encompassing both traditional and non-traditional partners, fostering collaborations to disseminate accurate information and facilitate access to health-related services. This project



epitomizes HOPES' unwavering commitment to fostering health equity, particularly in the context of COVID-19, through a comprehensive and interconnected approach that spans evaluation, community engagement, and capacity building.

Integrating patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) into American Muslim institutions for informed COVID-19 vaccine decision-making

The Center for HOPES is leading The Ohio State University's evaluation of the *Integrating patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) into American Muslim institutions for informed COVID-19 vaccine decision-making* project. This initiative addresses the deficiency in patient-centered outcomes research and comparative clinical effectiveness research (PCOR/CER) within the American Muslim community. The project focuses on engaging stakeholders, including the Islamic Schools League of America (ISLA) and the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU), employing PCOR principles. Objectives include building the capacity of these institutions and creating an Islamic school-based PCOR toolkit for addressing COVID-19 vaccination concerns. Long-term goals include deepening researchers' engagement strategies with American Muslim institutions, improving health outcomes, and reducing disparities within the community. The engagement plan encompasses focused convenings to equip leaders with PCOR/CER skills, with collaboration from ISLA, ISPU, and II&M, along with Dr. Ayaz Hyder contributing expertise in community-engaged data analytics and health equity related to COVID-19. The collaborative effort seeks to enhance research capacity and promote informed decision-making within the American Muslim community.



Global One Health Initiative (GOHi)

The Center for HOPES provides monitoring and evaluation technical assistance the University's Global One Health Initiative in Ohio and in Africa. GOHi works to build capacity in areas of global health, focusing on topics such as zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, maternal and child health, and food safety.



Cost of care for first episode of psychosis

The Center for HOPES is part of a collaborative team of researchers led by Dr. Nicholas Breitborde of The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center's Harding Hospital that are developing validated estimates of the cost of care for individuals with first-episode psychosis in Ohio. This work is funded by a mental health block grant from Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services, which is concerned with both the behavioral and physical health care costs associated with uncoordinated care. Data from Ohio Medicaid, MarketScan, and OSU EPICENTER (a coordinated specialty care (CSC) program developed by Dr. Breitborde) will allow the team to develop benchmark estimates essential to evaluating the cost savings and informing the expansion of the CSC approach. Estimates will be vetted through discussions with other Ohio stakeholders, including Ohio CSC teams and the NEOMED BeST Center.

Linking education, produce provision, and community referrals to improve diabetes care (LINK)

The Center for HOPES is a part of the team of Ohio State researchers embarking on a five-year, \$3.32 million project funded by the National Institutes of Health to address the intricate relationship between type 2 diabetes (T2D), food insecurity, and social needs. Recognizing that 19% of adults with T2D grapple with food insecurity, and that rates of T2D are higher among those facing food insecurity, the interdisciplinary team aims to improve T2D management by integrating health systems with community-based programs. The project, titled *Linking education, produce provision and community referrals to improve diabetes care (LINK)*, focuses on evaluating the Mid-Ohio Farmacy produce referral program, Cooking Matters for Diabetes education intervention, and referrals to the Central Ohio Pathways Hub. The goal is to determine their combined effects on hemoglobin A1c levels among a diverse population experiencing food insecurity and uncontrolled T2D. Led by principal investigators Joshua Joseph, MD, MPH, and Daniel Walker, PhD, MPH, the study employs a randomized, controlled trial to assess intervention effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and contextual factors influencing uptake, sustainability, and health equity advancement. The comprehensive approach includes community collaborations and aims to create scalable solutions to address the impact of uncontrolled T2D combined with food insecurity on vulnerable populations.



Evaluation Certificate Program

The Center for HOPES is dedicated to delivering impactful educational opportunities to support and elevate the public health workforce. Following years of development and pilot testing, the Center finalized its non-degree certificate program in 2023. This self-paced, virtual curriculum is designed to empower individuals in the fields of public health and social services who may require education on program evaluation in order to utilize data for assessing program needs and ultimately enhancing population health. Through a series of asynchronous modules and interactive activities, complemented by synchronous office hours and group discussions, participants gain insights into program evaluation best practices and hone their ability to critically analyze the linkages between investments, practices, and outcomes. Currently, HOPES is in the process of revamping its website, slated for launch in 2024, which will serve as the platform for the evaluation course's learning management system. Anticipated for summer 2024, the complete suite of courses will be made accessible to a broader participant base.

2024 Forecast

Building a Home for Health Policy

Looking ahead to 2024, the Center for HOPES anticipates a year of continued growth and impact. We foresee expanding our reach through strategic collaborations with local communities and academic institutions, amplifying our efforts to address health disparities and advance health equity. In the coming year, we aim to deepen our engagement with diverse stakeholders, fostering meaningful partnerships that drive evidence-based solutions to pressing public health challenges. Additionally, we are committed to enhancing our capacity-building initiatives, empowering emerging scholars and practitioners to drive positive change in their communities. As we embark on the next phase of our journey, our dedication to excellence in health policy and evaluation research remains steadfast, guiding us as we work towards a healthier, more equitable future for all.

Supporting Our Work

To become the home for health policy at The Ohio State University, we need your support. If you're a university researcher, join us as an affiliate. If you're a community stakeholder, consider enlisting us on proposals and projects. Anyone can donate to our general fund to support events, research collaborations, dissemination and advocacy efforts, and health policy mentorship. You can even tell us where you'd like your contribution to go. We invite you to join us, in whatever way you can, in the pursuit of evidence-based health policy that advances health equity and social justice for Ohioans.

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