



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,

The Center for HOPES had another impactful and exciting year in 2022. We continue to grow, adding both new staff and new projects while pursuing our core mission of improving health equity through rigorous and innovative policy research and evaluation. The Center continues to contribute to COVID-19 recovery efforts both here in Ohio and nationwide collaborations.

The Center takes an interdisciplinary approach to health and health care systems. Our team brings evaluation, economic, and policy expertise to complex issues facing our communities. In addition, we are reintroducing the Center to the university community, as our capacity and expertise have expanded over the past year. In particular, the Center staff is growing its capacity in community engagement to continue partnering with community organizations to support innovative programs with rigorous evaluation.

In 2022, HOPES adopted a new organizational structure with two long time staff assuming new leadership roles in the center. We are delighted to have Ms. Anne Trinh, MPH as our new Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives and Dr. Saira Nawaz, PhD as our Director of Health Services Research. With our continued emphasis on staff leadership, we are excited to grow our community and university partnerships.

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.

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

The Center for HOPES, situated within The Ohio State University's College of Public Health, reflects on a rich history of over two decades. Established in 1994, the Center was envisioned to meet the evolving needs of health policy decision-makers at local, state, and national levels. Rooted in a commitment to advance health equity and justice, the Center has consistently undertaken applied, community-driven, and collaborative work, in alignment with its overarching mission. In a transformative step toward furthering our initiatives, 2022 witnessed Anne Trinh assuming the pivotal role of Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives, while Saira Nawaz transitioned into the role of Director of Health Services Research. Additionally, as part of our continuous efforts to fortify our operational capabilities, we are pleased to introduce Morgan Spahnie, our new Operations Manager, to the HOPES [staff](#).

Budget Summary

The Center for HOPES receives \$163,000 per year in core funding from the Board of Trustees. Similar to last year, the Center's growth has seen payroll expenditures increased by approximately one third, from \$560,000 in 2021 to \$760,000 in 2022. Even with this growth in payroll expenses, we were able to maintain our current reserves. In 2023, the Center for HOPES plans to continue building its reserve account/bridge fund of approximately 6 months of personnel costs to cover potential funding shortfalls, as well as generate revenue from our nearly set up earnings unit to fund health policy work.

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. In the fall of 2020, Dr. Seiber accepted Governor DeWine's invitation to serve as a member of the 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.

Associate Director | **Kristin J. Harlow, PhD, JD, MSW**

Dr. Harlow brings expertise in public policy and management, data analytics, and applied policy research. Dr. Harlow also serves as Ohio's Project Director for the National Institutes of Health's HEALing Communities Study. She previously worked as a research associate at the Center for Human Resource Research at Ohio State focusing on workforce research, and as a health care attorney in private practice.

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.

Research Scholar | **Lisa A. Frazier, PhD, MPH**

Dr. Frazier brings expertise in public administration, applied policy research and communication, computational social science, and public health to the team. She previously worked as a professor of political science at Miami University and as a research and policy analyst at the Health Policy Institute of Ohio. Dr. Frazier provides



policy and analytical support on several of the Center's projects and manages the Center's strategic communications and dissemination needs.

Research Associate & Data Analyst | **Francis Anagbonu, MS, MA**

Mr. Anagbonu has expertise in health care financing, applied policy research, and data analytics. He previously worked as a health care specialist for the United States Army, providing limited primary and emergency care for the COVID-19 response team, and as a venture analyst at Ohio University.

Operations Manager | **Morgan Spahnie**

Mr. Spahnie joins the HOPES staff in 2022, having nearly 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. Spahnie is committed to making a positive impact in health research alongside a dedicated team at HOPES.

Administrative Associate | **Dev Singer**

Ms. Singer brings expertise in event planning, project budgeting, and grants and project management. Prior to joining the Center, Dev worked as the events and space coordinator at the Ohio State University's Translational Data Analytics Institute (TDAI) and the department manager for the Department of Dance. Prior to joining Ohio State, Dev had a career as a stage manager, working at theaters around the country, on cruise ships, and for international touring companies.

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.



Students | **Bucky Foster, Michael Partridge, Reno Domel & Kyle Moon**

Engaging with students is a dynamic aspect of our Center, as they infuse fresh ideas and perspectives. We highly appreciate their valuable contributions to our work. Simultaneously, our research and evaluation initiatives provide an enriching platform for students to apply their expertise, aligning with their academic pursuits and passions. These experiences, coupled with meaningful collaborations with our partners, aim to serve as a springboard for students to transition into successful careers. In 2022, the Center welcomed four students, including Bucky Foster, who offered analytical and operational support for Dr. Figueroa's RISE Study, as well as Michael Partridge, Reno Domel, and Kyle Moon, who played a crucial role in supporting the evaluation team across various projects and publications.



New Project Highlights

Throughout 2022, the Center for HOPES underwent expansion in both funding and collaboration. This growth was evident in projects and service contracts led by the Center, those influenced by the community, and those with a university-wide scope. It serves as a testament to our extensive and varied partnerships across Ohio State and Central Ohio.

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.

Syringe Services Program Evaluation

The *Building Capacity for Harm Reduction Monitoring and Evaluation* project, led by Equitas Health in partnership with the Center for HOPES, is a collaborative initiative aimed at enhancing the capabilities of syringe services programs (SSPs) in conducting effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The project, supported by the National



Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the University of Washington, focuses on both routine and periodic data collection, management, analysis, evaluation, and reporting. With an emphasis on quantitative and qualitative methodologies, Equitas Health aims to strengthen SSP M&E efforts and leverage data for program improvement. The initiative encompasses efforts to enhance data analysis, evaluation, reporting, and data management processes. Through sustained collaboration and shared learning opportunities, the project aims not only to achieve its immediate goals but also to develop a sustainability plan for ongoing M&E efforts beyond the project's conclusion. The endeavor reflects a commitment to advancing harm reduction practices and fostering a culture of continuous improvement in SSPs.

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.



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.

Consultation, planning, and facilitating of Madison County community health improvement plan

This collaborative effort between the Madison County Health Department (MCHD), the Center for HOPES, and the Center for Public Health Practice (CPHP) underscores a comprehensive community health improvement planning initiative. Consulting, planning, and facilitation services provided by the Center for HOPES and HPHP extend to prioritization meetings, community health improvement plan workgroup sessions, and the drafting of the Community Health Improvement Plan. With a commitment to inclusivity, Madison County stakeholders are actively engaged in these collaborative efforts. This work culminates in the finalization of the Madison County Community Health Improvement Plan, a dynamic document reflecting the health improvement goals and objectives of Madison County.



Publications

Center for HOPES [publications](#) in 2022:

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|--|--------------------------------|
| The dual burden of unmet reproductive health care needs among women with substance use disorder in Ohio | <i>Center for HOPES Report</i> |
| Predicting Breast Cancer Risk in a Racially Diverse, Community-Based Sample of Potentially High-Risk Women | <i>Cancer Medicine</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. In year 2 of the grant, 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.



Community Health Worker Equity Response

In 2022, 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 Administration 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.

COVID-19 Analytics and Targeted Surveillance System for Schools (CATS)

Since July 2020, the Center for HOPES has been working with Dr. Ayaz Hyder, Assistant Professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, to provide project management and community engagement support for the COVID-19 Analytics and Targeted Surveillance System for Schools (CATS) project. CATS is a syndromic surveillance system that helps schools and public health authorities work together to make data-informed decisions about learning modality (virtual, in-person, or hybrid) to prevent and control the spread of disease. In its first year, CATS was funded by the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio with allocations disbursed via the Ohio Department of Education from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds. In a sustainability win for the project, CATS secured new funding from the Office of Outreach and Engagement in its second year. The team has published several articles out of the community collaboration with more in the pipeline.

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.

REPRO

health
&
justice

Ohio Policy Evaluation Network (OPEN)

OPEN conducts rigorous and forward-thinking social-science research on the reproductive health of Ohioans with the goal of evaluating the reproductive health care landscape in the state in the context of federal and state laws, regulations, and policies. In 2022, the Center for HOPES continued to lead analysis of systems-level factors affecting access to and utilization of long-acting reversible contraception using insurance claims data. The Center was also proud to have Dr. Frazier serve as the interim chair of OPEN's Intersectional Equity and Inclusion committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH

infrastructure

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.



Analyzing harm reduction program data

In an extension of our work with addiction treatment and recovery programs, the Center for HOPES entered into an agreement with Safe Point, a comprehensive harm reduction program, to analyze client intake data and provide technical assistance on data use. Using latent class analysis, Center researchers will develop client profiles to inform Safe Point stakeholders about who the program serves. We will also develop risk scores for overdoses, soft tissue infections, and blood-borne infections; support staff training in evaluation methods; and provide technical assistance in designing a program dashboard. The partnership exemplifies how the Center invests in long-term relationships to build trust with community-serving organizations. Years of working together on other grants and projects drove Safe Point to ask the Center to assist in its application for the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) *Harm Reduction Grant*, from which this work is funded.

Evaluation Certificate Program

The Center for HOPES is committed to providing high-impact educational programming to sustain and advance the public health workforce. In 2021, the Center piloted its non-degree certificate program for public health and social service professionals and researchers. The aim of the self-paced, virtual courses is to address fear or resistance to program evaluation and empower the public health and social services work force to use data to assess programmatic needs and ultimately, to improve population health. Through a series of asynchronous modules and activities, supplemented by synchronous office hours and group discussions, participants learn about best practices in program evaluation and refine their skill in thinking critically about the connections between investments, practice, and outcomes. The inaugural cohorts for the Introductory and Intermediate modules of this program included students from diverse professional backgrounds, including community health workers, social workers, program managers, epidemiologists, and health services policy analysts. We will pilot the Expert modules in summer 2022 after which we expect to make the full set of courses available to a larger participant base.