

ABOUT ACADEMYHEALTH

AcademyHealth is the leading national organization serving the fields of health services and policy research and the professionals who develop and use the findings from health services research to improve health and health care for all.

Together with its members, AcademyHealth offers programs and services that support the development and use of rigorous, relevant, and timely evidence to increase the quality, accessibility, and value of health care, to promote equity, and to improve health.

A trusted broker of information, AcademyHealth brings stakeholders together to address the most pressing current and future needs of an evolving health system, inform health policy, and translate evidence into action.

AcademyHealth pursues its mission via a mix of traditional member services, events and convenings, and technical support and innovation. With a staff of 60 and an annual budget of over \$11 million, the AcademyHealth team:

- Creates real and virtual spaces via a suite of conferences and events where diverse perspectives highlight innovative health services research and provide insight into the state of healthcare delivery and health policy.
- Delivers and supports programs, scholarships and fellowships, and learning networks that contribute to the financial, human, and data resources necessary to ensure that the evidence produced is timely, equitable, and relevant.
- Works alongside policymakers, health systems, clinicians, patients, and other stakeholders to apply research evidence to real-world health care challenges.
- Advocates for policies that support the field, i.e., funding, training, and data.
- Supports the use of high-quality evidence and data in policymaking.

What Is Health Services Research?

Health services research (HSR) is a multidisciplinary, applied science that seeks to understand the organization, financing, and delivery of health care. Put simply, HSR asks:

- *What works*
- *For whom*
- *Under what circumstances*
- *At what cost*

Health services researchers come from an array of disciplinary backgrounds and work in a variety of settings, including health care delivery organizations, research organizations, academia, government agencies, consulting, and private industry (e.g., pharmaceutical, technology).



Organizational History: Building on a Strong Foundation

AcademyHealth was [formed in June 2000](#) following a merger between the Alpha Center, a leading health policy resource center providing research analysis, facilitation, education, and training, and the Association for Health Services Research (AHSR), the nonprofit professional society for those with a commitment to health services research. AHSR's mission involved educating consumers and policymakers about the importance of health services research, securing funding for the field, and providing networking and professional development opportunities.

Building on the strengths of its predecessor organizations and remaining ever-receptive to the evolving needs of the field, AcademyHealth is a trusted partner in the discovery and dissemination of timely and relevant research-based strategies to improve health and health care.

Core Value: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility

For more than 10 years, AcademyHealth has intentionally worked to promote a culture of equitable and inclusive values, policies, and practices both through its internal operations and structure and externally across the field of health services and policy research and in the conduct and use of research on health disparities.

This work began in earnest with the launch of the [Center on Diversity, Inclusion, and Minority Engagement \(DIME\)](#) in 2013. Initially, the DIME was primarily focused on support of training and mentoring for under-represented racial and ethnic minority (URM) researchers. Since then, AcademyHealth has expanded Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) activities with a focus on thought leadership and influence in the field of HSR by increasing workforce diversity and inviting new voices into conference presentations, workshops, other convenings, and on its active blog.

The organization's [current strategic plan](#) uplifts diversity and inclusion as one of its core values, and AcademyHealth continues to build on its previous work and strengthen its commitment to model, lead, and influence progress toward racial equity.

In summer 2023, AcademyHealth released an open access, searchable "[Equity and Innovation Resource Hub](#)" with vetted, curated and open access DEIA resources, including peer-reviewed articles, grey literature, frameworks, infographics, videos, and other resources to inform the field, as well as an interactive tool to reduce racial bias in big data studies. Developed with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and input from diverse collaborators, the interactive tool guides health services researchers to identify and reduce sources of racial bias in their research.

AcademyHealth's Core Values

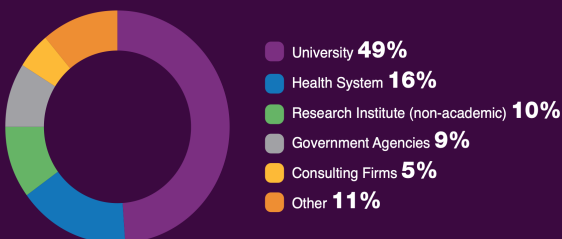
- 1 Evidence for Action
- 2 Diversity and Inclusion
- 3 Leading Based on Continuous Learning
- 4 Collaboration and Community
- 5 Trust and Integrity

Membership: A Vibrant Community Generating New Knowledge

AcademyHealth represents the interests of its [3,000 individual members](#) and [more than 160 organizational members](#) working to make people and communities healthier by providing the evidence used to inform important decisions and move research into action.

The organization targets programming for students, including student chapters, and offers [19 thematic Interest Groups](#) that support ongoing professional development and networking for members with aligned research interests. Whether students, early career professionals, or seasoned leaders, the field has always been multidisciplinary, drawing members from diverse educational, regional, and employment backgrounds. As the health care system and its workforce have evolved, health services research has grown to attract additional disciplines such as engineering, data and system science, demography, and others to tackle challenges such as patient safety and social determinants of health.

Individual Members Represent a Variety of Workplace Settings



Unlike some professional organizations, AcademyHealth does not publish a research journal. Instead, the organization has memoranda of understanding (MOU) with [four Official Journals](#): *Health Affairs*, *Health Services Research*, *JAMA Health Forum*, and the *Milbank Quarterly*. The *Learning Health System Journal* is the designated journal of the Learning Health System Interest Group under a similar MOU agreement. These Official Journal relationships deliver discounts and other benefits to individual and organizational members and support AcademyHealth's mission to communicate, amplify, and translate evidence for policy, practice and decision-making. All five journals are independently operated.

Conferences: Building Community & Showcasing the Latest Evidence

Convening provides members a chance to build new communities of collaborators and connect with their professional network. It also provides forums for learning and discussing opportunities for creating impact. AcademyHealth offers an [annual calendar of conferences](#) that support its mission and bring individuals and organizations of wide-ranging fields and perspectives together to share current research, discuss emerging issues, network, and learn new skills. The flagship offering is the [AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, or ARM](#), which is held each June.

AcademyHealth 2022 by the Numbers



Now in its 40th year, the ARM is the preeminent gathering for health services researchers and health policy professionals in the United States and across the world. AcademyHealth also offers two large meetings focused on health data and the translation and dissemination of research, respectively – the [Health Datapalooza](#), and the [Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health](#) (co-sponsored with the National Institutes of Health) – as well as the [Health Policy Orientation](#), a small format, three-day introduction to health policymaking in Washington, D.C.

Advocacy: A Voice for the Field

AcademyHealth represents the field of health services research in both state and federal policy, promoting the field and advancing the priorities of its membership. As a non-partisan organization and a champion of evidence, [AcademyHealth's advocacy priorities](#) focus on building a robust environment to produce health services research and enhance the dissemination and use of this important work. In support of the AcademyHealth strategic plan and aligned with the [cross-cutting priorities](#) approved by the Board of Directors in December 2022, AcademyHealth's advocacy efforts currently focus on promoting research and science innovation, health systems improvement, resilience, capacity, and proactively reducing health disparities, including for racial and socio-economic factors.

Programs: Of the Field & For the Field

Led by its expert staff, [AcademyHealth programs](#) aim to improve health and health care for all. Programs are supported by funding from a variety of partners, including major health care philanthropic organizations, federal and state health agencies, contract research organizations, and related technical assistance, research, and professional services firms. A significant portion of the AcademyHealth portfolio is extramurally funded and includes projects designed to deliver better care, meaningfully leverage the use of health data, and build healthy communities. In 2023, programs were largely sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and multiple federal agencies. AcademyHealth achieves this work by drawing on a deep bench of multi-disciplinary staff skilled in translation and dissemination, technical assistance, professional services, stakeholder engagement, and community building.

