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.
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
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.

More Information

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