Health Outcomes, Policy and Evaluation Services

The Center for Health Outcomes, Policy and Evaluation Studies (Center for HOPES) coordinates the CCTS Tracking and Evaluation activities to ensure that all CCTS programs and functions are organized, implemented, and operated in accordance with established goals and timelines. As part of the College of Public Health, the Center for HOPES also collaborates with investigators, trainees and research staff at the Ohio State University and Nationwide Children’s Hospital to conduct these evaluation services.

Core research evaluation services include, but are not limited to:

- Health economics analysis
- Health care policy analysis
- Outcomes assessment, including non-clinical social and economic
- Social network analysis
- Survey research, web-based and non web-based
- Lean/Six Sigma approaches to process and quality improvement in clinical and translational research

Health Economics Analysis

Health economics analysis involves the study of supply and demand on health care resources, their impact on health outcomes and the effect of health services on a population.

Health economics can analyze topics such as:

- Factors influencing health/health care
- The value of health/health care
- The demand for health/health care and its impact on resources, outcomes or populations
- The supply of health care and its impact on resources, outcomes or populations
- Health economic evaluation at a macro system level
- Health economic evaluation at the treatment level
  - Cost-benefit analysis
  - Cost-effectiveness analysis
- Planning or budgeting mechanisms

Health Care Policy Analysis

Health care policy analysis involves the collection and review of existing health policy research and data. It involves the processing, synthesizing and consolidation of such information. Policy analysis often leads to the development of recommendations for future action steps.

The scope of policy areas addressed by the Center for HOPES includes patient care improvement, health plan satisfaction, health care services for vulnerable populations, efficiency and effectiveness of health care delivery, public-sector health care financing, state health care reform initiatives, and evaluations of the community benefits derived from specific health care practices and programs.
Outcomes Assessment: Clinical and Non-clinical

Outcomes assessment includes the development and/or use of measures and models to ascertain the degree to which a particular program, treatment option, organizational process, etc. has achieved specified targets or outcomes. Outcomes assessments can be both clinical and non-clinical in nature. Assessments and evaluations can include, but are not limited to, indicators which take into account the cost-effectiveness of services, the number of treatment errors, the amount of time to provide a particular service, and/or the satisfaction of consumers or providers.

Social Network Analysis

Research in a number of academic fields has shown that social networks operate on many levels, from families up to the level of nations, and play a critical role in determining the way problems are solved, organizations are run, and the degree to which individuals succeed in achieving their goals.

In its simplest form, a social network is a map of all of the relevant ties between all the individual actors within the networks being studied. The network can also be used to measure social capital - the value that an individual gets from the social network. These concepts are often displayed in a social network diagram.

Survey Research

Our survey research involves the design of a survey methodology, questionnaires, a sampling plan, and a project plan for collecting information from respondents. It involves the design or use of a survey tool (telephonic, paper or web-based) and the data collection software. It also includes the analysis and summarization of the survey data.

Lean and Six Sigma Approaches to Process and Quality Improvement

Various business management strategies have been developed to improve the performance of organizations by improving the processes by which they carry out their work. These strategies, which include Lean and Six Sigma, aim to implement process improvements through a coordinated set of principles and practices that promote greater efficiency and effectiveness, with fewer wasteful practices or errors.

Lean (also known as Lean Production, Lean Enterprise, and Lean Thinking) involves a set of principles, practices and methods for designing, improving and managing processes. A Lean process reflects the goal of continually reducing waste and improving work flow to efficiently produce a product or service that is perceived to be of high value to those who use it. Implementation of Lean involves systematic process assessment and analysis.

Six Sigma is a business management strategy used to improve the quality and efficiency of operational processes. Six Sigma aims predominantly to make processes more uniform and precise through the application of statistical methods.