Executive Director’s Message

NAHDO’s 32nd Annual Meeting and 10th APCD Workshop

The third decade of NAHDO conferences demonstrates that if you have a great agenda with relevant topics, convene national experts in the field, and exchange innovative practices, you are on to something. I’m proud of NAHDO’s track record, not only of meeting successes, but also our continued ability to advance statewide health care data reporting systems across the country.

As the number of states with All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) initiatives increases, there has been a corresponding interest in cross-state sharing of analytic methods and tools. We hope to continue to generate opportunities for cross-state collaboration around multi-state measures and reports, beginning with this year’s workshop: “Interoperability to Promote Value in Healthcare Data Sources”. The session, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, featured real-life examples of how states are using data analytics to demonstrate value in their data collection efforts. A second workshop detailed the challenges and guardrails around the collection and use of Substance Use Data (SUD) and opened a dialogue between SAMHSA and the states.

We invite all of our members to become involved to work together on our most pressing issues.

Most useful is the opportunity to meet and hear from a variety of people who are "on the ground" doing the work needed to accelerate adoption of APCDs.

The conference is a chance to network with colleagues from other states/agencies that are grappling with big data issues, particularly the struggle between data transparency and confidentiality for patient data.
Today, the vision remains as relevant as it was in 1986, perhaps even more, as health care and payment reform accelerates...

We are stronger together and it is more effective and efficient when states align around common issues.”

NAHDO PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

NAHDO’s grants and contracts help sustain the organization and promote NAHDO’s mission. All grants and contracts are aligned with NAHDO’s mission and are geared to improving the health data infrastructure.

NAHDO-CDC Environmental Public Health Tracking Network
NAHDO continues to facilitate the access to and use of hospital discharge and claims databases for creating standardized health indicators measuring morbidity and health outcomes related to environmental exposures. Goals for the project include:

• Promoting access to and the use of health care data in tracking applications
• Providing education and outreach on priority topics
• Facilitating CDC tracking program goals

Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) Standards
The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) has engaged NAHDO for data standards work related to the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). This work is funded through a subcontract with Truven Health Analytics under the HCUP contract. NAHDO’s Data Measurement Scientist Consultant, Barbara Rudolph, Ph.D. serves as the state voting member on the National Uniform Billing and Claims Committees (NUBC) and (NUBC). This representation is important to promote standards that align with state administrative data practices and analytic uses.

State Technical Assistance Contracts
NAHDO continues to provide its members technical support to improve and advance their data agendas. NAHDO staff often partners with the University of New Hampshire (UNH) as the APCD Council to provide a broad range of APCD services ranging from RFP development, planning, stakeholder engagement, and technical support.

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NAHDO is a co-leader and founder of the All Payer Claims Database Council to promote the implementation of statewide APCDs.

The APCD Council is a source of independent, neutral information and valuable technical knowledge around APCD implementation. The Council leverages their national learning network of state APCD’s, to guide states’ decisions.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

All-Payer Claims Database Council
NAHDO is a Co-Leader and Co-Founder of the APCD Council. The APCD Council is a collaboration between the New Hampshire Institute for Health Policy and Practice (NHIHPP) at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) in Durham, New Hampshire, and NAHDO.

NAHDO works closely with the APCD Council to advocate for and provide technical assistance to states planning and implementing statewide APCD systems. While the Council’s work is not funded (provided by in-kind services from UNH and NAHDO), the Council has received funding for specific deliverables.

Federal Engagement
The APCD Council team regularly engages with federal agencies and Congressional staff in the form of responding to NPRMs, RFIs, and ad-hoc consultation and input. Educating external entities about the characteristics and benefits of statewide APCD systems is important to continually raise awareness about the power of these emerging databases and the importance of federal-state-industry partnerships to improve the types of data collected as well as the uses of the information generated.
TREASURER’S REPORT, FISCAL YEAR 2018

NAHDO’S fiscal year ends September 30. The audit occurs in the next fiscal year.

NAHDO’s project revenue has been decreasing, resulting in a decrease in the fund balance which has been built up over the years. NAHDO continues to rely on conference revenues, project support, and membership as its core revenue sources. We will continue to seek funding partnerships and other external support to continue its activities.

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Audited financial statements
NAHDO gives special thanks to:

The University of New Hampshire Institute for Health Policy and Practice for their collaboration in all things APCD.

NAHDO members and supporters throughout the country who believe in the power and value of publicly available health care data bases and the importance of quality, pricing, and health system performance reporting.