

CORE

Center for Outcomes
Research and Education

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Evidence for Change

Introduction



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Hello, and welcome to CORE's 2022 annual report! This past year brought significant progress for our team and cross-sector partners as we worked to advance health and health equity in communities everywhere. We are excited to share a few highlights from our 2022 efforts, evidence gathered, and lessons learned through our diverse portfolio of research, evaluation, analytics, technical assistance, and capacity-building work.

During 2022, we continued working side-by-side with a wide range of organizations making a difference in their communities, improving health and health equity, and coming together to address critical challenges. Read on to learn about some of those partners and projects, and for a look ahead to what's next.

If you've read our past annual reports, you may notice that this year's looks a little different, including less text, links to in-depth stories on our blog, and a special online version of the report at coreannualreport.org. We hope these changes make it easier to find the information that's relevant and interesting to you. As always, we'd love to hear your feedback.

We are grateful for the support of our funders, sponsors, research participants, and partners, whose ideas and innovations are shaping a brighter future. I'd also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to CORE's talented and dedicated team, the driving force behind our continued growth and positive impact.

Keri Vartanian

About CORE

THE CENTER FOR OUTCOMES RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

(CORE) is an independent team of scientists, researchers, and data experts with a vision for a healthier, more equitable future. Based in Portland, Oregon, we work with our many partners to take on today's biggest health and healthcare challenges—from access to mental healthcare to the housing crisis and more.

Our team of approximately 30 full-time staff specializes in high-impact research, evaluation, analytics, technical assistance (TA), and capacity building. Through this work, we deliver insights that help shape and sustain healthier systems, policies, programs, and communities.

MISSION

To drive meaningful improvements in health and health equity through collaborative research, evaluation, analytics, technical assistance, and capacity building.

VISION

Engaged communities, effective programs and policies, equitable systems, and healthy people.

OUR PARTNERS INCLUDE: Health systems, state Medicaid programs, the housing, education, and criminal/legal sectors, community groups, community-based organizations, foundations, and many others.

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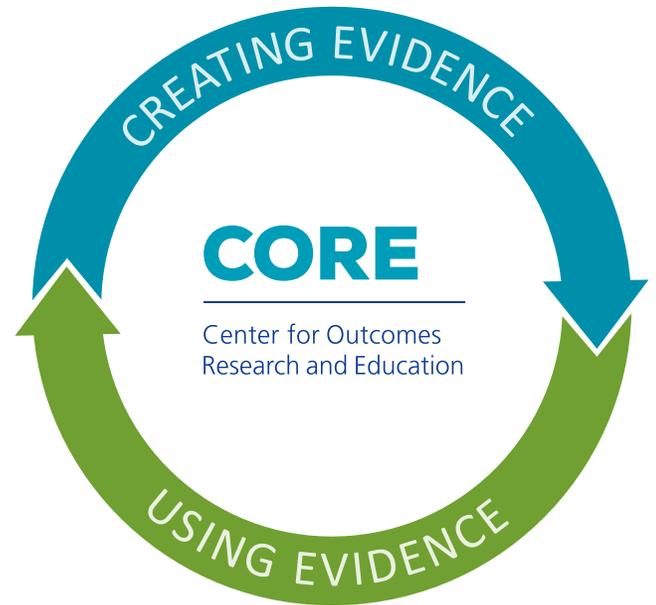
LEARN MORE ABOUT CORE at providenceoregon.org/core

About CORE

Creating & Using Evidence

At CORE, we not only create and gather evidence, we also help our partners use evidence to shape data-informed decisions, programs, and policies.

This deeply connected cycle of creating evidence through our Research & Evaluation portfolio and using evidence through our Analytics & Strategic Consulting portfolio is visible in our wide range of services for projects and partners of all sizes.



Here are a few examples of how we create and use evidence:

CREATING EVIDENCE

With funding from the Social Interventions Research and Evaluation Network (SIREN), CORE studied the compounding impact of health-related social needs on health status and the use of healthcare services. Our research found measurable links between health-related social needs, self-reported health outcomes, and use of healthcare, but not always in a consistent direction. For example, higher health-related social needs were associated with increased primary care visits but less use of mental health services.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

CREATING & USING EVIDENCE

From 2015 to 2019, CORE conducted a multisite evaluation of the CareOregon Primary Care Investment Fund (PCIF), which provided loans and technical assistance to support care delivery transformation in primary care clinics. CORE collected data through 179 interviews and used it to evaluate the program's impacts. CORE's findings and reports were used routinely by CareOregon and PCIF clinics for process improvement, shared learning, and collaborative problem-solving.

USING EVIDENCE

A new analytics project with Health Share of Oregon seeks to improve service coordination, care quality, and outcomes for people experiencing mental health conditions and substance use disorders. In consultation with key partners, CORE will design and track new measures of treatment effectiveness, create interactive dashboards, develop performance benchmarks, and work to connect housing data to clinical information to enable a more coordinated service approach.

2022 at a Glance

In 2022, CORE partnered on 35 high-impact research, evaluation, analytics, TA, and capacity-building projects designed to advance health and health equity.

ACTIVE
PROJECTS **35**

STAFF
33

45+
PARTNERS
& FUNDERS

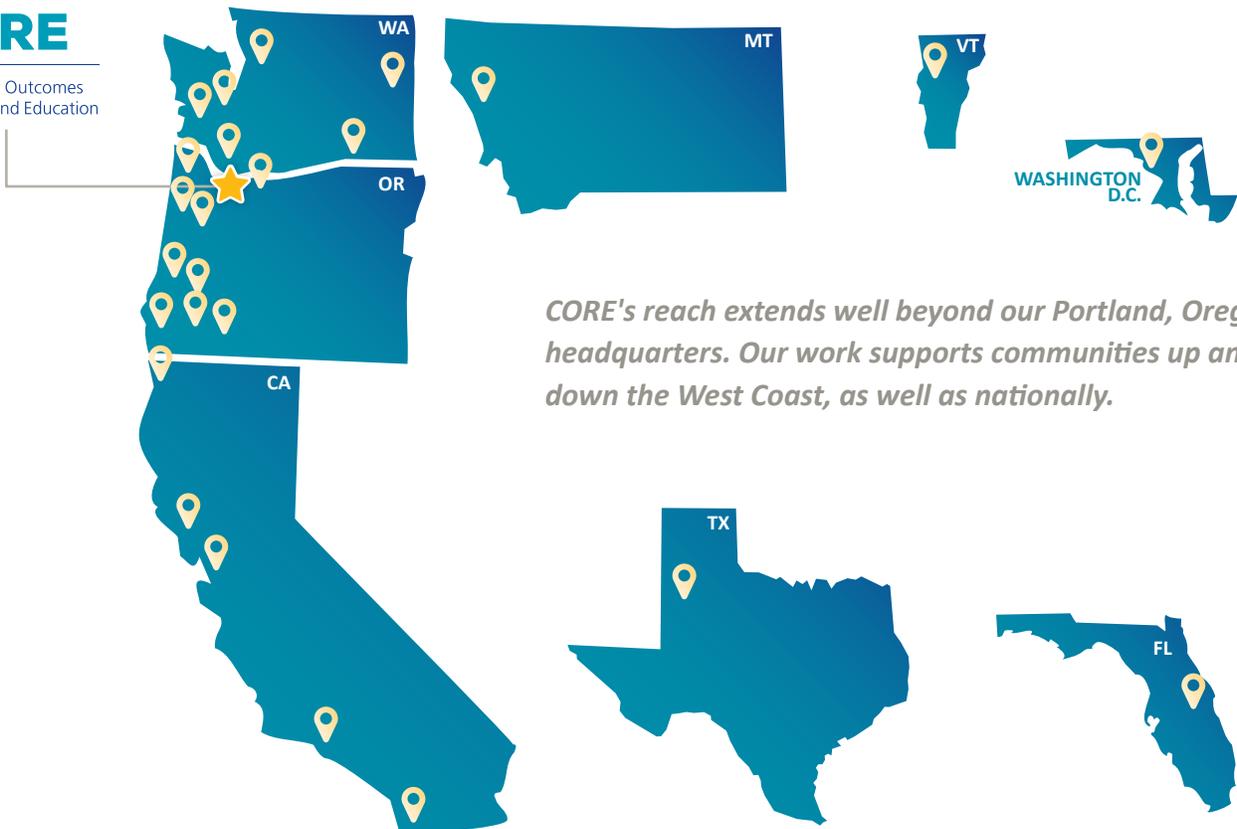
24 NEW PROJECTS
AWARDED

PUBLICATIONS
& CONFERENCES **21**

CORE Partners & Project Locations

CORE

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CORE's reach extends well beyond our Portland, Oregon headquarters. Our work supports communities up and down the West Coast, as well as nationally.

Highlighted Projects

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (BHC)

Evaluating a 10-year community power-building initiative

BHC was a 10-year, \$1 billion initiative of The California Endowment (TCE) designed to transform 14 California communities devastated by health inequities. CORE's innovative evaluation of BHC offers evidence on the impacts of power-building initiatives and insights for others working to build—and measure—community power and drive systemic change.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

THE HEALTH SHARE ANALYTICS PROJECT

Data-driven insights for improved health outcomes

For Oregon's largest Medicaid Coordinated Care Organization, Health Share of Oregon, using health data is key to reducing health disparities and improving community health. As part of an ongoing partnership with CORE, Health Share is working on expanding its quality metrics reporting and data analytics capabilities to better serve its more than 420,000 members.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

“

We are very excited about our partnership with CORE. Our collaborative analytics work will help to identify opportunities to improve care and health outcomes for our members experiencing substance use disorders, houselessness, or behavioral health conditions.

—Cat Livingston, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Health Share of Oregon



THE HEALTHCONNECT HUB EVALUATION

The power of a community-based workforce

Accessing care and support can be difficult for people with complex health and social needs. An innovative care coordination program from the SW Washington Accountable Community of Health (SWACH) aims to break down those barriers with the help of a community-based workforce. CORE's evaluation of the program offers evidence for care coordination programs everywhere.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

CORE'S DATA FOR CHANGE PROGRAM

Collaborating to build community data capacity

In 2021, CORE launched the Data for Change program in partnership with a cohort of seven community-based organizations and Providence Community Health Investment. In the program's first full year (2021–2022), our Technical Assistance (TA) coaches and data experts had a fantastic experience collaborating and learning with cohort members to help grow their capacity to use data to support a wide variety of efforts to improve community health and equity.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

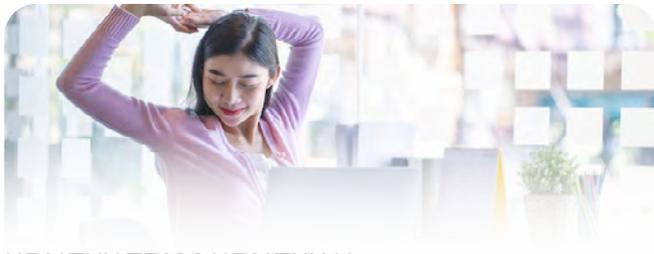
Highlighted Projects

THE SOUTHERN OREGON
PEER WORKFORCE PROJECT

Strengthening the peer workforce in Southern Oregon

Southern Oregon behavioral health leaders recognize the peer workforce as essential in responding to behavioral health issues and homelessness. A partnership between local groups, peers, and CORE is compiling evidence and recommendations to strengthen and support this workforce. Through interviews and a review of current and best practices, CORE highlighted the positive impacts of peer workers, as well as opportunities for additional research, investment, and development of the field.

[▶ READ MORE](#)



HEALTHY TEAM HEALTHY U

Can an employee wellness program impact healthcare utilization?

Wellness programs are a popular approach for employers seeking to support employee health and productivity while addressing the rising costs of employer-provided healthcare. But do these programs work? New research from CORE draws on nearly ten years of data to provide an in-depth look at the State of Oregon's Healthy Team Healthy U program.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

“

We no longer need to ask if peers are effective. Instead, we need to ask how they are effective and under what conditions are they best able to leverage their skills to support community members.

—Lizzie Fussell, MPH, CORE



THE HEALTHIER OREGON STUDY

Studying challenges & successes in expanding Medicaid eligibility

In 2021, Oregon paved the way for more people to access full Oregon Health Plan (OHP) benefits, regardless of their immigration status. This pathway, known as Healthier Oregon, allows those up to age 26 or 55 and older to enroll in this Medicaid-like benefit. Building on CORE's past OHP research, we are studying this rollout by the state's Coordinated Care Organizations to help inform and improve future efforts to expand Medicaid.

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Highlighted Projects



THE JASPR PILOT PROJECT

Can software help improve suicide care in emergency departments?

Emergency departments (EDs) play a crucial role in providing care to individuals experiencing a suicidal crisis. However, EDs face challenges in delivering care to these patients. In response, CORE researchers partnered with [Providence](#) to evaluate the implementation of a promising software tool designed to help EDs provide standardized, evidence-based suicide care.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Advancing innovative solutions to homelessness

[Council for the Homeless \(CFTH\)](#) is a nonprofit working to prevent and end homelessness in Clark County, WA. In 2022, CORE continued partnering with CFTH to support their innovative work through evaluation of initiatives focused on helping collaborate more effectively with cross-sector partners, address unmet needs in the community, and more.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

“

CORE’s research has played a valuable role in our work at Council for the Homeless. They’ve also helped identify where change is needed, where systems are doing well, and what we need to learn to better integrate, collaborate, and support the populations we serve.

—Heather Sheppard, Systems Integration Manager, Council for the Homeless

SW WASHINGTON COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Understanding the links between school attendance & local needs

Poor school attendance is a significant barrier to student success and wellbeing. In SW Washington, local partners teamed up with CORE to explore how data sharing between schools, healthcare, criminal justice, and housing could illuminate community needs and help shape more effective cross-sector responses to chronic student absenteeism.

[▶ READ MORE](#)



THE CALIFORNIA ACCOUNTABLE COMMUNITIES FOR HEALTH INITIATIVE (CACHI)

Studying the impacts of an accountable communities for health initiative

[CACHI](#) aims to bring together residents and community institutions to create a new vision for California’s health system. From 2017 to 2022, CORE partnered with CACHI to evaluate progress and challenges for the initiative and its Accountable Community of Health sites, and to explore their contributions toward systems change and improved community outcomes.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

Highlighted Projects

ADDRESSING LANGUAGE DISPARITIES
IN BREAST CANCER SCREENING

Enhancing health equity by understanding the drivers of breast cancer screening disparities

Patients who prefer a non-English language face systemic barriers to accessing care, including breast cancer screenings. While language barriers are known to drive disparities, little research exists on how they impact the receipt of breast cancer screenings. A research project by CORE responds to this challenge by studying language-related barriers and facilitators to mammography.

[▶ READ MORE](#)



CORE WHITE PAPER

Getting clear about fuzzy matching

Cross-sector data can play a valuable role in advancing health and equity. Yet working with cross-sector data often brings a variety of challenges. In a 2022 CORE white paper, our data experts describe how fuzzy matching helps address these challenges by making it possible to link disparate data sets and sources, even when the original data are less than perfect.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

More accolades from our partners

“CORE shows up as a partner and can stand in that nebulous space with us as we move into bold work. That gives us a lot more confidence in the partnership and our ability to tackle big projects. It also helps us feel like we have a buddy in the work.”

“CORE brings a level of credibility, which is important because we’re doing a lot of systems change and advocacy work, and CORE’s end products are used for that. They’re not just used for evaluation learning. We can use them for multiple reasons and multiple audiences.”

Publications

Patient-Reported Outcomes for Fully Vaccinated COVID-19 Patients Over 6 Weeks: The Experiences of Clinical Breakthrough Cases, *The Patient*, November 2022. [▶ READ MORE](#)

Impact of Oral Health Integration Training on Children's Receipt of Oral Assessment, Fluoride Varnish, & Dental Services, *Community Dentistry & Oral Epidemiology*, November 2022.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

Social & Behavioral Pathways between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Poor Adult Physical Health: Mediation by Early Adulthood Experiences in a Low-Income Population, *Environmental Research & Public Health*, August 2022.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

Associations Between Adverse Childhood Experiences & ED Utilization in an Adult Medicaid Population, *Environmental Research & Public Health*, August 2022. [▶ READ MORE](#)

The Role of Community Health Workers in Developing Multidimensional Organizational Relationships, *Journal of Ambulatory Care Management*, July 2022. [▶ READ MORE](#)

Housing & Re-entry: A Mixed Method Evaluation of a Low-cost Community-based Intervention for Increasing Access to Housing Post-incarceration, *Journal for Advancing Justice*, June 2022. [▶ READ MORE](#)



Patient Experience & Healthcare Utilization for a COVID-19 Telemedicine Home Monitoring Program Offered in English & Spanish, *Plos One*, June 2022.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

Differences in Access to Virtual & In-Person Primary Care by Race/Ethnicity & Community Social Vulnerability Among Adults Diagnosed with COVID-19 in a Large, Multi-State Health System, *BMC Health Service Research*, April 2022.

[▶ READ MORE](#)

Getting Clear About Fuzzy Matching: A Guide to Matching Administrative Data Sets, CORE White Paper, April 2022. [▶ READ MORE](#)

Differences in Outpatient Health Care Utilization 12 Months After COVID-19 Infection by Race/Ethnicity & Community Social Vulnerability, *International Journal of Environmental Public Health*, March 2022. [▶ READ MORE](#)

Local Housing Choice Voucher Distribution Policies Impact Healthcare Utilization: A Randomized Natural Experiment, *Journal of Housing and Urban Development*, March 2022. [▶ READ MORE](#)

Our Internal Equity Initiatives

In 2022, we expanded our organizational equity work through several exciting initiatives.



Modernizing our approach to surveys

We continued evolving our survey processes in 2022 to ensure more equitable survey development and fielding practices. Focus areas included:

Respondent-driven sampling: Exploring ways of fielding surveys to reach populations that are often underrepresented in research.

Best practices on questions for individual demographics and identity: Leveraging the in-depth work of other researchers and organizations to set standards for how and when CORE asks these questions.

Different outreach methods and enhanced processes: Exploring different survey approaches and mediums to increase access across diverse populations, while streamlining our internal processes to increase efficiency.



Advancing our internal equity practices

Staff from across CORE collaborated to document our equity capacity-building efforts to date, create an ongoing structure for all staff to help lead various aspects of CORE's equity work, create an equity resource library, and plan for continued learning and training in 2023.



Training the next generation

2022 marked the launch of our new internship and training program, and we were thrilled to host our first student. Going forward, the program will continue to prioritize people of color and first-generation students.



Exploring equity with the CORE book club

CORE staff members launched a book club focused on equity. The first books were *Data Feminism* by Catherine D'Ignazio and Lauren F. Klein and *Indigenous Statistics* by Maggie Walter and Chris Andersen.

Our next steps

Our internal equity work continues in 2023, guided by CORE's strategic plan and equity roadmap. Our current focus is on putting equity into practice by developing our equity commitment statement, exploring equity in our hiring practices, implementing equity training and practice sessions, and ongoing work on survey modernization and our internship program. We look forward to growing and learning as we advance this vital work.

What's Next?

Here are a few of the exciting CORE projects and partnerships launching in 2023.

Closing the gap in diabetes disparities in the Latino community

Building on partnerships developed through Providence, Merck, and our Data for Change program, CORE will continue helping the Providence Milwaukie Community Teaching Kitchen evaluate the impact of its [Spanish Language Culinary Nutrition and Gardening Education pilot project](#). The William E. and Thelma F. Housman Foundation is funding this work.

Studying the impacts of discrimination on breast cancer prevention

Leveraging data from CORE's growing body of [research on disparities in breast cancer screening](#), we're pleased to receive funding from the Preparedness & Treatment Equity Coalition to analyze the impacts of discrimination experienced in the healthcare system on the use of preventative mammography, and on who is and is not represented in common population health performance measures for breast cancer screening.

Improving care & outcomes for people with both mental health and SUD diagnoses

In partnership with Health Share of Oregon, the state's largest Medicaid Coordinated Care Organization and a longtime CORE partner, we're launching a new analytics project focused on quality of care and outcomes for people diagnosed with mental health conditions and substance use disorders.



Exploring the effects of Medicaid coverage on food purchasing patterns

With a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, CORE will study the impact of Medicaid expansion on food purchasing patterns. Our research will explore whether and how healthcare coverage for low-income individuals influences household food purchasing practices.

Evaluating a housing benefit project for Medicaid members

Through another Health Share partnership, CORE will evaluate an 18-month demonstration project providing short-term housing supports to Medicaid enrollees. The project, administered by Oregon Health & Science University, provides different types of financial support such as emergency shelter, assistance with utility bills, or rent support. Because these supports will soon be covered statewide as part of Oregon's new [Medicaid waiver](#), the state and other CCOs are eager to learn from Health Share's experience.

Cultivating a strong peer workforce in Southern Oregon

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the [Southern Oregon Peer Workforce Project](#) and the region's behavioral health leaders. Thanks to funding from the Raymond Foundation, CORE will support an initiative to help local peers and the organizations that employ them provide behavioral health and addiction support for individuals and families in crisis.

With Gratitude ...

... to all our **PARTNERS AND FUNDERS, PROJECT PARTICIPANTS**, and **COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS** for your collaboration and support. We're proud to be a part of your important work!

... to the **COMMUNITY MEMBERS, PROVIDERS**, and **SURVEY AND INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS** who put your trust in us and took the time to contribute to this work by sharing your insights and experiences.

... to the **ENTIRE CORE TEAM** for your hard work, ideas, and commitment to advancing health and health equity every day.

Thank You!

Partners & Funders

CORE's work is generously funded and conducted in partnership with our cross-sector partners, including foundations, government agencies, ACHs, CCOs, health systems, and more. Examples include:

AGD Consulting	MDRC	Providence St. Joseph Health—Oregon: Community Health Investment
All in for Health	MEF Associates	
Better Health Together	Mental Health Association of Oregon	Providence St. Joseph Health—Oregon: Earle A Chiles Research Institute
CareOregon	Merck Foundation	
Center for the Study of Social Policy	Meyer Memorial Trust	Providence St. Vincent Foundation
Central City Concern	National Institutes of Health: National Cancer Institute	Providence Well Being Trust
Clatsop Community Action	Oregon Health & Science University	PSU Housing Research and Action Collaborative (HRAC)
Coalition of Communities of Color	Oregon Health Authority	Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB)
Community Partners	Oregon Patient Safety Commission	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)
Council for the Homeless	Oregon Public Health Institute – Right From The Start	Rogue Valley Farm to School
Desert Vista Consulting	Our Village Gardens	Southern Oregon Success
Growing Gardens	Pixel37 Design	Southwest Washington Accountable Community of Health
Health Share of Oregon	Portland Street Medicine	Stanford University
Hearst Foundation	Providence Health Plan	The California Endowment (TCE)
Home Forward	Providence Health Research Accelerator	The Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation
Hood River Valley Adult Center	Providence Milwaukie Hospital – Community Teaching Kitchen	Unidos Bridging Community
Housman Foundation for Medical Research	Providence St. Joseph Health—Center for Cardiovascular Analytics Research and Data Science	Urban League of Portland
Jack Coleman Communications		Vancouver Housing Authority
JOIN		Washington Department of Health
Joint Office of Homeless Services		
Kaiser Permanente Northwest Community Health		
Legacy Health System		

The 2022 CORE Team

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