



Mental Health Research Network

A consortium of public domain research centers dedicated to improving patient mental health through research, practice, and policy

MISSION

Our mission is to improve the understanding and management of mental health conditions through a closer connection between research, practice, and policy.

OVERVIEW

Mental Health Research Network (MHRN) research centers partner with health systems that finance and provide care for a diverse population of over **12.5 million people in 15 states**, sharing rich and compatible data resources to support a range of clinical and health services research.

Diversity of member demographics, insurance coverage, and organization of healthcare services as well as access to computerized medical records and insurance claims data make this network an ideal environment to identify research questions that matter to patients, healthcare providers, and healthcare systems, efficiently answer questions involving real-work patients and providers, and disseminate and implement research.

Funding for MHRN is through a cooperative agreement from the National Institute of Mental Health.

MHRN Established 2010

MHRN

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS:

- Baylor Scott & White Health
(PI: Laurel Copeland)
- Essentia Institute of Rural Health
(PI: Steve Waring)
- Group Health Research Institute
(PI: Greg Simon)
- Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
(PI: Steve Soumerai)
- Henry Ford Health System
(PI: Brian Ahmedani)
- HealthPartners Institute for Education & Research
(PI: Rebecca Rossom)
- Kaiser Permanente Colorado
(PI: Arne Beck)
- Kaiser Permanente Georgia
(PI: Ashli Owen-Smith)
- Kaiser Permanente Hawaii
(PI: Beth Waitzfelder)
- Kaiser Permanente Northern California
(PI: Enid Hunkeler)
- Kaiser Permanente Northwest
(PI: Frances Lynch)
- Kaiser Permanente Southern California
(PI: Karen Coleman)
- Palo Alto Medical Foundation
(PI: Ming Tai-Seale)

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK WITH MHRN

A major focus for MHRN going forward is to foster and facilitate collaboration with new researchers. If you are interested in collaborating with MHRN, find more information on the MHRN website:

www.mhresearchnetwork.org

Research Projects

MHRN and MHRN-Affiliated Projects include:

- Longitudinal analysis of SSRI warnings and suicide in youth
- Behavioral activation therapy for perinatal depression
- Variation in depression care processes and outcomes
- A geographically & ethnically diverse autism registry for effectiveness studies & maximizing bio-specimen collection
- Pragmatic trial of population-based suicide attempt prevention programs
- First-episode psychosis in a population-based sample
- Collaborative care of mental, physical, and substance use syndromes
- Reducing cardiovascular risk in adults with serious mental illness
- Next-generation assessment using mobile devices
- Automated outreach for depression treatment dropout

Research Highlights from MHRN projects

- **Are antidepressants over-prescribed?** MHRN data show prescription of antidepressants without mental health diagnosis is much less frequent than previously reported.
- Unintended consequences: FDA warning on **antidepressants and suicidality** may have increased risk.
- **Screening for suicide risk:** Are routine depression questionnaires useful?
- Half of people dying by **suicide** had contact with health care in the month prior to death, but only one quarter were known to have any mental health need.
- MHRN data used to examine use of **antipsychotics in kids**

Read more about these studies and other research findings at:
www.mhresearchnetwork.org

Scientific Interest Groups

Child & Adolescent Mental Health

Improving mental health outcomes for children and adolescents.
Lead: Robert Penfold, 206-287-2232, penfold.r@ghc.org

Diversity & Health Equity

Working on recommendations for incorporating race/ethnicity into mental health research.
Lead: Karen Coleman, 626-564-3580, Karen.J.Coleman@kp.org

Health Policy in Mental Health

Improving quality of care and health outcomes among the mentally ill.
Lead: Christine Lu, 617-509-9989, Christine_lu@harvardpilgrim.org

Mental-Physical Comorbidity

Examining potential papers, projects, and proposals related to comorbid medical conditions in people with mental illness.
Lead: Rebecca Rossom, 952-883-5466,
Rebecca.C.Rossom@HealthPartners.com

Suicide Prevention

Exploring ways to standardize risk assessment, identify suicidal ideation, and intervene to prevent suicidal behavior.
Lead: Brian Ahmedani, 313-874-5485, BAHMEDA1@hfhs.org

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Members of the MHRN SIGs meet regularly by phone and in person at the HMORN Conference. Find out more at:

www.mhresearchnetwork.org

