



Research and Evaluation

Annual Report

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INTRODUCTION

History

Comagine Health's research and evaluation team began in 2012 with the award of a National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)-funded grant in collaboration with Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) to examine the use of prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) to improve patient care and outcomes. In the years since, the research and evaluation team has worked with partners to secure 27 grants and contracts, with a total of \$12.3 million awarded to the Comagine Health team. Projects have included randomized controlled trials, secondary analysis of linked administrative datasets, mixed methods studies, and community evaluations. Areas of study have included controlled substance prescribing and pain management policies, substance use trajectories, overdose prevention strategies, pharmacy-based access to harm reduction tools, peer recovery specialist interventions, and other related topics.

About Our Work

Comagine Health's research and evaluation team collaborates with academic, government, and nonprofit partners to conduct behavioral and physical health studies. Our work focuses on prevention and treatment of substance use disorders, controlled substance prescribing practices, harm reduction interventions, initiatives to promote community health and equity, and development and testing of tools for professionals and patients. We value collaborative approaches to ensure findings can be used to address stakeholder needs and inform program, community, and policy improvements. Our team brings strength in translating findings for dissemination to broad audiences.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to our partners for inviting us to collaborate in advancing understanding of community needs, informing policy and practice change, and grounding program improvement in evidence.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

16

Research and evaluation projects

7

Projects that pivoted to add COVID-19-related data collection, analysis, or support tools

11.5
FTE

Expanded team to include 3 additional full-time staff, bringing the total to 11.5 research team members

15

Peer-reviewed publications and submitted manuscripts

15

Podium and poster presentations

83%

Award rate on competitive grants submitted

Research and Evaluation During COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, team members pivoted to working remotely full time. We worked with study partners to adapt procedures and continue projects with minimal disruption where possible, including conducting remote data collection, reordering timelines, and shifting attention to manuscript preparation. We also worked with partners to examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by adding questions to existing data collection efforts or conducting rapid assessments in vulnerable communities.

Growing Infrastructure

As our team experienced a steady increase in our portfolio of work, we revisited our team infrastructure in order to continue providing high-quality services to our partners. Over the course of the year, team members developed or enhanced standardized protocols and tools for onboarding new employees, research project management, qualitative data collection and analysis, data visualization, and ongoing training and education for team members as well as other Comagine Health employees.

OUR CURRENT WORK

Comagine Health collaborates with academic, state, county, and nonprofit entities in conducting health services research and evaluation. We serve as lead evaluators on state contracts and as subcontractors to university partners for federally funded research grants. The following projects reflect our current work by funding source.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Reducing Overdose After Release From Incarceration (ROAR)

9/30/2018 - 9/30/2021

- Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Needham Waddell, PhD, Oregon Health & Science University
- Collaborators: Oregon Health & Science University, Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC), Oregon State University College of Pharmacy, CODA, Inc., Bridgeway Recovery, and New York University

Implement and evaluate a pilot intervention to reduce risk of overdose among women released from prison by providing medications for opioid use disorder and support from Certified Recovery Mentors prior to and following release.

Peer Recovery Initiated Medical Establishments + Hepatitis B/Hepatitis C/HIV Testing and Linkage to Care (PRIME+)

9/1/2019 - 8/31/2020 (Expanded through 9/30/2022 with SAMHSA funding)

- Principal Investigator: Ann Thomas, MD, Oregon Health Authority Acute and Communicable Disease Program
- Collaborators: Oregon Health Authority Acute and Communicable Disease Program and Health Systems Division

Deploy peer support specialists in 22 of Oregon's 36 counties to engage people who are at risk of or receiving treatment for overdose, infection or other health related issues related to substance use.

Oregon's Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)

9/1/2019 - 8/31/2022

- Principal Investigator: Laura Chisolm, PhD, Oregon Health Authority Injury and Violence Prevention Program
- Collaborators: Oregon Health Authority Injury and Violence Prevention Program, Synergy Health Counseling, OHSU's Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network (ORPRN), Lines for Life, and Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon (MHA AO)

Obtain high-quality, comprehensive, and timely data on overdose morbidity and mortality and implement prevention and response efforts at the community and clinic levels. Part of this work is support by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant.

Provider Results of Opioid Management and Prescribing Training (PROMPT)

9/1/2020 - 8/30/2022

- Principal Investigator: Michael Fisher, MD, Brigham and Women's Hospital
- Collaborators: Brigham and Women's Hospital, Oregon Health Authority Injury and Violence Prevention Program, OHSU's Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network, and Synergy Health Consulting

Study the impacts of an academic detailing and practice facilitation intervention to help clinicians and practices address chronic pain and opioid safety.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

RESPOND TO PREVENT: Stepwise Pharmacy Naloxone Study

6/15/2018 - 3/31/2022

- Principal Investigator: Traci Green, PhD, Brandeis University
- Collaborators: Brandeis University, University of Rhode Island, Oregon Health & Science University, University of Washington, Washington State Pharmacist Association, CVS, and Safeway

Integrate and expand two toolkits providing pharmacist and patient educational materials to improve access to naloxone, buprenorphine, and sterile syringes. Evaluate the effect of the integrated toolkit in community pharmacies in four states.

Implementation, Outcomes, and Cost of a Novel Medicaid Policy to Reduce Opioids for Back Pain

8/15/2018 - 5/31/2023

- Principal Investigator: Esther Choo, MD, MPH, Oregon Health & Science University
- Collaborators: Oregon Health & Science University and Oregon State University College of Pharmacy

Investigate a novel Oregon Medicaid policy to limit opioid prescribing for back pain and expand coverage for nonpharmacologic therapies, to determine whether the policy is effective in reducing opioid-related harms and other outcomes.

Oregon HIV/Hepatitis and Opioid Prevention and Engagement (OR-HOPE) Study

8/1/2019 - 7/31/2022

- Principal Investigator: Todd Korthuis, MD, MPH, Oregon Health & Science University
- Collaborators: Oregon Health & Science University, Oregon Health Authority Acute and Communicable Disease Program, HIV Alliance, and Bay Area First Step

Implement and evaluate a rural model using peer support specialist to increase access to treatment for hepatitis C and substance use disorders. Conduct randomized control trial of peer-facilitated telemedicine hepatitis C treatment.

Using a Novel Comprehensive Linked Dataset to Determine Early Predictors of Opioid Overdose (CORR)

10/1/2018 - 9/30/2023

- Principal Investigator: Scott Weiner, MD, MPH, Brigham and Women's Hospital
- Collaborators: Brigham and Women's Hospital, Oregon Health Authority Injury and Violence Prevention Program, McLean Hospital, and Brandeis University

Determine the odds of opioid overdose based on interactions between patient-level risk factors, and household and community prescription levels.

Peer-Based Retention of People Who Use Drugs in Rural Research (PROUD-R2) Study

7/1/2019 - 6/30/2023

- Principal Investigator: Todd Korthuis, MD, MPH, Oregon Health & Science University
- Collaborators: Oregon Health & Science University, University of Kentucky, and Ohio State University

Test the effectiveness of peer-driven study retention intervention and inform methods to optimize engagement in research in people who use drugs (PWUD) in rural America.

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Surveillance, Enhancement, and Evaluation

10/1/2020 - 9/30/2023

- Lead: Oregon Health Authority Injury and Violence Prevention Program

Develop surveillance of stimulant prescribing and use, ensure timely and accurate PDMP data, and evaluate the impact of tools and interventions on PDMP utilization and prescribing.

Community Evaluation Partners

Evaluation of 4D Recovery

9/1/2019 – 3/31/2021

- Lead: Tony Vezina, 4D Recovery

Examine the effects of 4D's peer-delivered and recovery community center services.

OUR FINDINGS

Publications

The following publications and manuscripts represent our work published or under review in peer-reviewed journals in 2020.

Published

“Like Yin and Yang” Perceptions of Methamphetamine Benefits and Consequences Among People Who Use Opioids in Rural Communities. Authors: Baker R, Leichtling G, Hildebran C, Pineal C, Waddell EN, Sidlow C, Leahy JM, Korthuis PT. (2020) *Journal of Addiction Medicine*.

[View paper/abstract](#)

A Comparison of Trends in Opioid Dispensing Patterns Between Medicaid Pharmacy Claims and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Data. Authors: El Ibrahimy S, Hallvik SE, Johnston K, Leichtling G, Choo E, Hartung DM. (2020) *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety*.

[View paper/abstract](#)

Identifying Opioid Dose Reductions and Discontinuation Among Patients With Chronic Opioid Therapy. Authors: Hallvik SE, Johnston K, Geddes J, Leichtling G, Korthuis PT, Hartung DM. (2020) *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety*.

[View paper/abstract](#)

Patterns of Prescription Opioid Use Prior to Self-Reported Heroin Initiation. Authors: Hartung DM, Geddes J, Johnston K, Leichtling G, Hallvik SE, Hildebran C, Korthuis PT. (2020) *Journal of Addiction Medicine*.

[View paper/abstract](#)

Prescription Opioid Dispensing Patterns Prior to Heroin Overdose in a State Medicaid Program: A Case-Control Study. Authors: Hartung DM, Johnston K, Hallvik SE, Leichtling G, Geddes J, Hildebran C, Keast S, Chan B, Korthuis PT. (2020) *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.

[View paper/abstract](#)

Harm Reduction and Adaptations Among PWUD in Rural Oregon During COVID-19.

Authors: Seaman A, Leichtling G, Stack E, Gray M, Pope J, Larsen JE, Leahy JM, Gelberg L, Korhuis PT. (2020) *AIDS and Behavior*. Accepted.

[View paper/abstract](#)

The Impacts of COVID-19 on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Overdose Concerns for People Who Use Drugs.

Authors: Stack E, Leichtling G, Larsen JE, Gray M, Pope J, Leahy JM, Gelberg L, Seaman A, Korhuis PT. (2020) *Journal of Addiction Medicine*.

[View paper/abstract](#)

Reducing Overdose After Release From Incarceration (ROAR): Study Protocol for an Intervention to Reduce Risk of Fatal and Non-Fatal Opioid Overdose Among Women After Release From Prison.

Authors: Waddell EN, Baker R, Hartung DM, Hildebran C, Nguyen T, Collins DM, Larsen JE, Stack E. (2020) *Health & Justice*.

[View paper/abstract](#)

Ambulance Calls for Substance-Related Issues Before and After COVID-19.

Authors: Weiner SG, Cash RE, Hendricks M, El Ibrahim S, Baker O, Seethala R, Peters G, Goldberg S. (2020) *Prehospital Emergency Care*.

[View paper/abstract](#)

Prescription and Prescriber Specialty Characteristics of Initial Opioid Prescriptions Associated with Chronic Use.

Authors: Weiner SG, Chou SC, Chang C, Garner C, El Ibrahim S, Hallvik SE, Hendricks M. (2020) *Pain Medicine*.

[View paper/abstract](#)

Accepted or Under Review

Comparison in Characteristics and Outcomes Between Patients With Heroin Use Disorder and Heroin and Stimulant Use Disorder.

Authors: El Ibrahim S, Hallvik SE, Johnston K, Leichtling G, Korhuis PT, Hartung DM. (2020) *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*. Under review.

Enhancing Race and Ethnicity Using the Bayesian Imputation in an All Payer Claims Database.

Authors: El Ibrahim S, Hendricks M, Hallvik SE, Dameshghi N, Hildebran C, Fischer M, Weiner SG. (2020) *INQUIRY*. Under review.

Linkage of Public Health and All Payer Claims Data for Population-Level Opioid Research.

Authors: Hallvik SE, Dameshghi N, El Ibrahim S, Hendricks M, Hildebran C, Bishop C, Weiner SG. (2020) *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety*. Under review.

Patient Outcomes Following Opioid Dose Reduction Among Patients With Chronic Opioid Therapy. Authors: Hallvik SE, El Ibrahimí S, Johnston K, Geddes J, Leichtling G, Korthuis PT, Hartung DM. (2020) *Pain*. Under review.

Peer Recovery Support Services Across the Continuum: In Community, Hospital, Corrections, and Treatment and Recovery Agency Settings — A Narrative Review. Authors: Stack E, Hildebran C, Leichtling G, Waddell EN, Leahy JM, Martin E, Korthuis PT. (2020) *Journal of Addiction Medicine*. Accepted.

Podium Presentations

Concurrent Opioid and Methamphetamine Use in Rural Communities: Perspectives Among People Who Use Drugs. Presenters: Leichtling G, Korthuis PT. Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, Nashville, TN. (virtual) May 2020.

[View presentation slides](#)

Nothing About Us Without Us: Peer Collaboration in Research. Presenters: Hildebran C, Stack E. Peerpocalypse Conference, Seaside, OR. (virtual) July 2020. Recorded presentation.

[View webinar recording](#)

Peer Support Specialists as Partners in Research and Practice. Early Findings From the ROAR Project. Presenters: Waddell EN, Stack E, Hildebran C, Nelson M. Northwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center/Clinical Trials Network Quarterly Webinar, Portland, OR. (virtual) October 2020. Recorded webinar.

[View webinar recording](#)

COVID-19 Behavior Changes and Recommendations for COVID-19 Messaging Among People Who Use Drugs in Rural Oregon. Presenters: Guyer J, Pope J, Leichtling G, Leahy JM, Korthuis PT. Oregon Public Health Association Conference, Portland, OR. (virtual) October 2020.

[View presentation slides](#)

Linkage and Enhancement of Public Health Datasets and All Payer Claims to Further Population-Level Opioid Research. Authors: Hallvik SE, Dameshghi N, El Ibrahimí S, Hendricks M, Hildebran C, Weiner SG. Oregon Public Health Association Conference, Portland, OR. (virtual) October 2020.

[View presentation slides](#)

Academic Detailing in Community Pharmacies: Experiences From a Naloxone, Buprenorphine, and Syringe Safety Intervention. Presenters: Irwin A, Al-Jammali Z, Arnold J, Banta-Green C, Bishop C, Boggis J, Bolivar D, Bratberg J, Floyd A, Gray M, Green TC, Hartung DM, Leichtling G, Ventricelli D. National Resource Center for Academic Detailing Conference, Boston, MA. (virtual) November 2020.

[View webinar recording](#) (presentation starts at 2:17:15)

COVID-19 Qualitative Interviews With People Who Use Drugs (PWUD). Leichtling G, Pope J, Leahy JM, Korhuis, PT. Presentation series for Oregon Health Authority leadership, county public health overdose prevention teams, and statewide harm reduction and recovery organizations. (virtual) June-July 2020.

[View presentation slides](#)

Academic Posters

Collaborative Development of a Peer Mentor Model to Reduce Women's Risk of Overdose After Release From Incarceration: Lessons From ROAR. Authors: Hildebran C, Stack E, Bialas T, Wisdom J, Meyer D, Waddell EN. Poster presented at the National Prescription Drug and Heroin Summit, Nashville, TN. (virtual) April 2020.

[View poster](#)

The More You Know: Linkage of Public Health Datasets and All Payer Claims to Further Population-Level Opioid Research. Authors: Hallvik SE, El Ibrahim S, Hendricks M, Dameshghi N, Bishop C, Hildebran C, Weiner SG. Poster presented at the National Prescription Drug and Heroin Summit, Nashville, TN. (virtual) April 2020.

[View poster](#)

A Comparison of Trends in Opioid Dispensing Between Medicaid Pharmacy and PDMP. Authors: El Ibrahim S, Hallvik SE, Johnston K, Leichtling G, Choo E, Hartung DM. Poster presented at Academy Health. (virtual) August 2020.

[View poster](#)

Systemic Barriers to Dispensing Naloxone in Community Pharmacies Across Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Washington. Authors: Gray M, Bishop C, Irwin A, Boggis J, Hartung DM, Leichtling G, Green T. Poster presented at the Oregon Public Health Association Conference, Portland, OR. (virtual) October 2020.

[View poster](#)

Intervention to Increase Naloxone Engagement in Community Pharmacies: A Focus Group Investigation. Authors: Ventricelli D, Gray M, Boggis J, Bratberg J, Irwin A, Banta-Green C, Leichtling G, Floyd A, Hartung DM, Green TC. Poster presented at the Addiction Health Services Research Conference, Providence, RI. (virtual) November 2020.

[View poster](#)

A Participatory Process to Develop a Naloxone, Buprenorphine, and Syringe Safety Intervention for Community Pharmacies. Authors: Green TC, Boggis J, Irwin A, Bratberg J, Gray M, Banta-Green C, Hansen R, Floyd A, Hartung DM. Poster presented at the Addiction Health Services Research Conference, Providence, RI. (virtual) November 2020.

[View poster](#)

Assessing the Validity of Pharmacy Syringe Sales Data to Inform Opioid Addiction Trends and Response. Authors: Green TC, Stopka T, Xuan Z, Davis T, Boggis J, Irwin A, Gray M, Hartung DM, Bratberg J. Poster presented at the Addiction Health Services Research Conference, Providence, RI. (virtual) November 2020.

[View poster](#)

Using Asynchronous Online Focus Groups to Capture Healthcare Provider Opinion. Authors: LaForge K, Gray M, Stack E. Poster presented at the American Evaluation Association Conference, Portland, OR. (virtual) November 2020.

[View poster](#)

Sample/Selected Products

Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Fact Sheet

In collaboration with OHA, Comagine Health developed an MOUD fact sheet to provide a quick introduction to how Medications for Opioid Use Disorders work in the body, who can prescribe, and where they are dispensed. The MOUD fact sheet also provides Oregon-specific data about MOUD availability.

[View fact sheet](#)

Peer Interview Report

The Peer Interview Report, prepared in collaboration with MHAAO, summarizes the findings from interviews conducted in 2020 with participants in direct service or leadership roles in the peer-delivered services workforce. The report provides information about workforce development and support needs, wages and growth opportunities, and sustainability challenges.

[View report](#)

County Service Summary

The County Service Summary provides county-specific snapshots of overdose-related services and projects across Oregon. This information supports Oregon Health Authority (OHA) overdose-prevention funding decisions and county-level public health agencies' planning and intervention efforts.

[View summary](#)

Staying Safe From COVID-19 (for People Who Use Drugs)

Two flyers provide information about safety during COVID-19 for people who use drugs. One flyer was developed in English and Spanish in collaboration with OHA for distribution by peer recovery specialists and harm reduction organizations and provides information on reducing risk of COVID-19 and other harms. Another flyer was developed for the RESPOND TO PREVENT study for distribution in pharmacies that sell non-prescription syringes and provides information on syringe and COVID-19 safety.

[View English-language OHA flyer](#)

[View Spanish-language OHA flyer](#)

[View RESPOND TO PREVENT flyer](#)

Utah Academic Detailing Handouts

Two handouts to use during academic detailing that provide information on opioid prescribing and naloxone. One handout provides pain management recommendations for dentists, including best practices related to opioid prescribing post procedure. Another handout guides clinicians on co-prescribing naloxone with patients receiving opioid prescriptions, including conversation starters and a sample naloxone prescription.

[View dental opioid guidelines](#)

[View naloxone co-prescribing guide](#)

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Over the last eight years, we've continued to grow our team and portfolio of work by providing high-quality research project management and evaluation to our partners.

We look forward to expanding current work and growing in new areas of focus this next year, including:

- Polysubstance use, including amphetamines and benzodiazepines
- Peer recovery support specialist interventions at critical junctures
- Suicide prevention for people with pain and substance use disorders
- Pre- and post-natal support for people with substance use disorders
- Social determinants of health

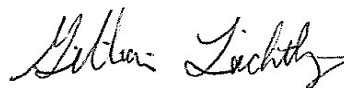
We are committed to continuing and deepening our collaborations with partners in academic institutions, state health departments, recovery organizations, health care entities, and nonprofits that provide behavioral health and other services.

Our team is fortunate to have an incredibly talented group of researchers contributing to novel studies and developing our ever-growing infrastructure.

Thank you,



Christi Hildebran



Gillian Leichtling