


Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

By the Numbers



:: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) works to ensure medical progress translates into better patient care by funding health services research, disseminating the latest clinical information, and leveraging other research and data strategies.

:: Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), the largest collection of hospital care data in the United States, provides states with local-level information for opioid-related hospitalizations.*

:: In 2017, the U.S. spent over \$3 trillion on health care. That same year, AHRQ received \$323 million in funding, less than 0.011% of the total federal budget, to improve the quality, safety and efficiency of health care, and weed out costly duplication and waste.* ^

:: Since 2010, AHRQ-supported research contributed to a 21% reduction in medical complications that occurred in hospital settings, which resulted in 125,000 avoided deaths and \$28 billion in savings.*

AHRQ in Action

Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP)

CUSP promotes effective teamwork and best practice implementation among clinical teams to improve patient safety in health care settings. According to a 2017 study published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, nursing homes in 38 states adapted CUSP to reduce incidences of catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs), a common and costly condition in long-term care facilities. Within two years of implementation, CAUTIs rates among nursing home patients dropped by 54% across more than 400 facilities.*

Re-engineered Discharge (RED)

The Tennessee Hospital Association (THA) Tennessee Center for Patient Safety relies heavily on AHRQ resources to improve safety within affiliated hospitals. Utilizing multiple AHRQ tool kits, such as CUSP and RED, THA saved \$17 million by reducing adverse safety events by more than 1,000 and readmission by 1,500 over a two year period.*

Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety (TeamSTEPPS)

TeamSTEPPS is a patient safety program developed by AHRQ and the Department of Defense to improve teamwork skills among health care professionals. Within 6 months of implementing TeamSTEPPS at the San Antonio Military Medical Center, instances of patient-reported safety concerns in urology services dropped by 60%, the average procedure time was reduced and the rate of on-time surgeries increased.*

AHRQ Large Scale Programs

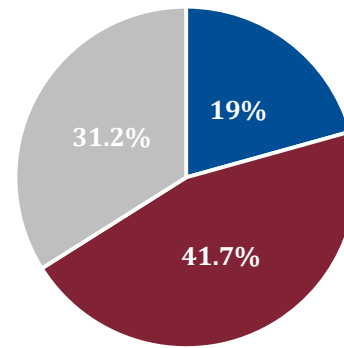
- ❖ **The Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (Project ECHO)** initiative uses telehealth to improve care in rural and underserved communities. By connecting specialty physicians in urban areas with primary care physicians who serve rural and underserved populations, the program enhances the scope of care available to these populations. Project ECHO has 77 specialist hubs across 33 states, consulting on more than 55 medical conditions.*
- ❖ **The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS)** is the nation's only data source measuring how Americans use and pay for medical care. Annual surveys of health care providers, individuals, and families provide information on health status, use of medical services, insurance coverage and patient satisfaction. This data plays a pivotal role in the health care policymaking process at the federal, state and local levels.*
- ❖ In 2018, AHRQ released new **Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP)** county- and region-level statistics on hospital stays involving alcohol, opioids and other drugs. The interactive map provides a focused look at substance-driven hospitalization rates in specific geographic areas. This provides policymakers and public health advocates critical information in the effort to prioritize and tackle local substance use challenges.*

* AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY <WWW.AHRQ.GOV>

^ CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES, NATIONAL HEALTH EXPENDITURES 2017 <WWW.CMS.GOV>

Americans Support Increased Funding for AHRQ

The Agency for Healthcare and Quality (AHRQ) is the federal agency charged with funding health care delivery research, which seeks to rapidly translate discoveries from research into medical practice and improve the quality, safety and effectiveness of health care. Which of the following statements most accurately reflects your view?



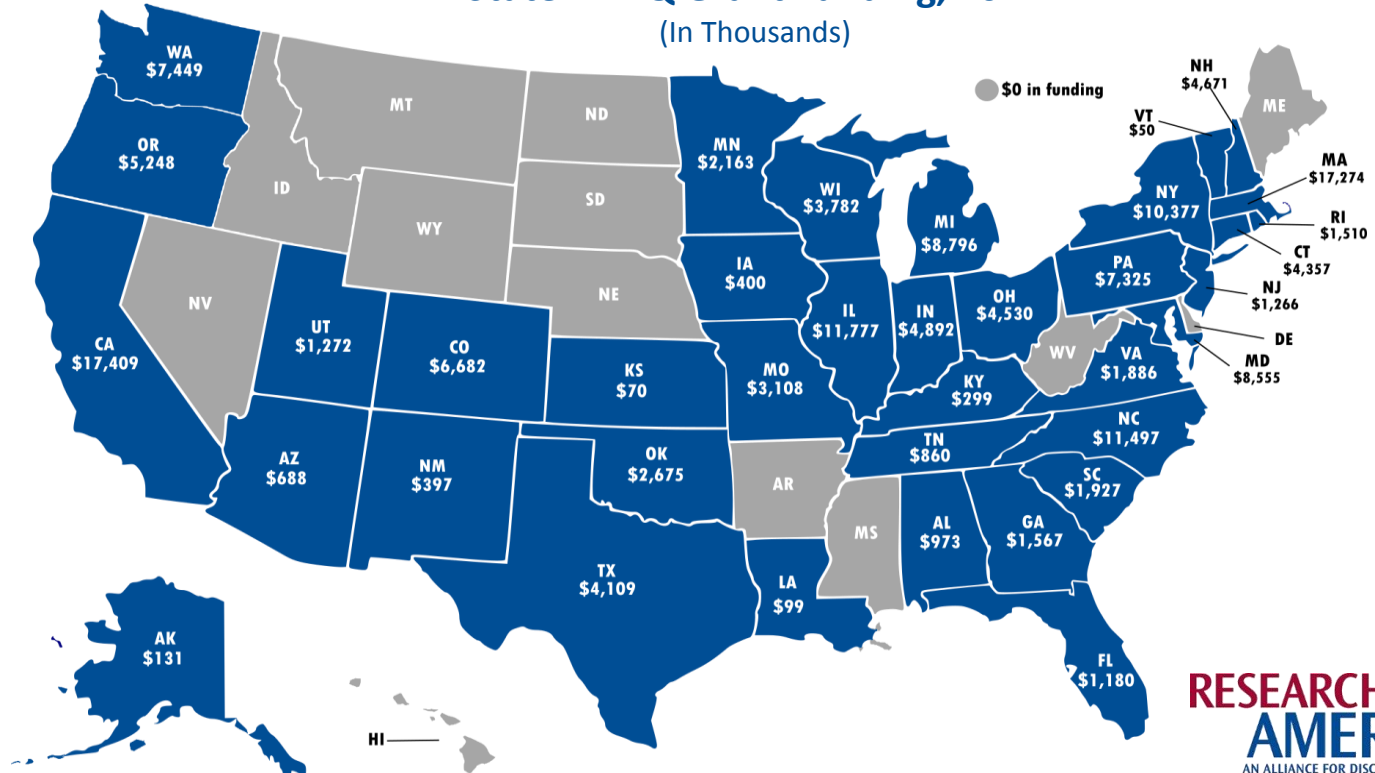
- AHRQ funding should be increased as a strategy to improve health care quality and safety in the US
- AHRQ funding should be increased as a strategy to improve health care quality and safety in the US
- Don't know/No opinion

A RESEARCH!AMERICA SURVEY OF U.S. ADULTS CONDUCTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ZOGBY ANALYTICS IN JANUARY 2017.

AHRQ-funded research plays a critical role in ensuring our nation's health care system delivers on the promise of medical progress and maximizes the benefit of each health care dollar spent. As our nation confronts a challenging fiscal future, it is in our strategic interests to capitalize more fully on the value AHRQ-funded research can deliver.

State AHRQ Grant Funding, 2017

(In Thousands)



**RESEARCH
AMERICA**
AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH

SOURCE: Department of Health and Human Services TAGGS