



2008 In Review: CHI Accomplishments

The four core functions around which the work of CHI has been organized are consistent with its organizational mission and fulfill the anticipated functions of the Institute that were articulated in the first five-year business plan.

1. SERVING AS AN INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE FOR HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE DATA –

CHI staff engaged in a variety of activities and projects in 2008 as part of their continuing effort to enhance and expand the institute's capacity to provide health and health care information that is responsive to constituent needs. These activities included:

Web site

- Posted updated data on insured and uninsured Coloradans, Medicaid and CHP+ enrollees, CICP utilization, Colorado population demographics and aspects of the health care delivery system to the CHI Web site's Data Center.
- Updated or uploaded nearly 100 state and national databases.
- Posted dozens of safety net-related publications to alert constituents of new studies or other relevant information.
- Posted 80 new graphs and indicators related to the health professions workforce, safety net providers and other relevant health care indicators.
- Began Phase IV of Web site development to feature health care data more prominently on the home page of the Web site to enable visitors to find data about Colorado counties and regions more quickly and easily.

2. CONDUCTING HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE-RELATED RESEARCH AND POLICY ANALYSIS –

CHI staff engaged in a variety of activities and projects to respond to health policy-related topics of high importance to Colorado policymakers. Highlights include:

Vulnerable populations and the safety net

- Completed a series of maps for the Colorado Children's Healthcare Access Program (CCHAP). The purpose of these maps is to summarize where children enrolled in the Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) programs live relative to primary care providers willing to provide medical homes to these enrollees.
- Under an agreement with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, began quarterly updates of maps summarizing medically underserved areas and populations and health professions shortage areas (HPSAs) for primary care, mental health and dental health.
- Provided training to ClinicNet primary care clinics and school-based health centers in use of a data collection tool developed by CHI as part of its Safety Net Indicators and Monitoring System (SNIMS).
- Served as technical advisors to the SB 07-211 Committee—a committee established to ensure that all Colorado children are covered by health insurance by 2010 and that all Medicaid and CHP+ children have a medical home once covered.
- Provided a county- and state-level analysis of the number of uninsured children who are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid for HCPF.

- Completed a technical brief providing a discussion of the various sources of statewide uninsured estimates and serving as a resource to constituents for understanding the methodological issues related to developing and comparing uninsurance estimates.
- Worked with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) on a “fiscal translation” project to use the estimates prepared by the Lewin Group for the 208 Commission to develop a sustainable, Colorado-derived method to estimate the number of uninsured people for assessing the fiscal impacts of various policy reform options.
- Continuing to work with safety net providers to collect data as part of the Safety Net Indicators and Monitoring System (SNIMS) established through a grant from TCHF in 2006. Most recently, CHI completed a data collection effort for school-based health centers and community-based, nonprofit clinics (ClinicNet-affiliated clinics).

Health care workforce

- Surveyed rural Colorado dentists, issued findings, made numerous presentations and e-mailed announcement of survey findings to CHI constituents.
- Administered the 2008 Colorado RN Workforce Survey, the second RN survey conducted by CHI to track changes and policy issues related to the state’s RN workforce.
- Compiled and released the state's first comprehensive inventory of Colorado initiatives and programs that are working to recruit and retain health care providers in Colorado communities, especially in the state’s medically underserved areas.
- Participated in the Colorado Healthcare Workforce Summit and made presentations on CHI’s physician supply and demand models, including the methods to be used in deriving Colorado estimates.

Special projects/collaboration

- Completed analytical work for The Colorado Health Foundation’s 2008 Health Report Card supplement on obesity.
- Launched the 2008 Colorado Household Survey in mid-November under contract with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Data and an initial analysis of the survey data are expected to be available in March 2009.
- Completed an insurance study in partnership with the Division of Insurance (DOI) that analyzed the cost drivers that account for insurance rates in Pueblo as compared to the Greeley and Denver Metro MSAs. This study was mandated in a bill that passed in the 2007 legislative session directing the Colorado Division of Insurance to oversee the conduct of the study. Governor Ritter’s policy office contracted with CHI to complete the study. A final report was submitted to DOI on December 30, 2008.
- Updated health and social indicators contained in Yampa Valley’s *Community Indicators Project* in collaboration with Yampa Valley Partners.
- Developed a policy options paper for Rep. Ellen Roberts at her request based on the SW Colorado Study completed by CHI in 2007.
- In partnership with others, developed Health Care Cost Model Tool for Colorado Children’s Campaign.
- Completing a demographic and health profile for a coalition of stakeholders in northwest Colorado. The report will contain a series of maps, tables and charts which will summarize demographic, health care access and health status characteristics of counties in that region compared to the state as a whole.
- Provided technical staff support to the Collaborative Scopes of Care Advisory Committee appointed by Governor Ritter to examine the evidence and efficacy for the scopes of practice of advanced practice nurses, physician assistants and dental hygienists. The evidence-based review

and final report of findings was approved by the committee and transmitted to the Governor's Office on schedule on December 30, 2008. This study was a key recommendation of the Governor's Nursing Workforce and Patient Care Task Force, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Reform's final report and was included in Governor Ritter's Building Blocks to Health Reform issued in February 2008.

- Provided technical assistance and prepared an interim report for the Vaccine Advisory Committee for Colorado (VACC), working in partnership with the Department of Public Health and Environment and the Lieutenant Governor's Office to examine barriers and recommend ways to increase immunization of Colorado's children over the next three years.

3. CONVENING STAKEHOLDERS AND DISSEMINATING HEALTH AND HEALTH-RELATED INFORMATION IN FORMS AND FORMATS THAT INFORM HEALTH POLICY DECISIONMAKING –

Using a variety of strategic communication strategies, CHI staff engaged in a range of activities to promote the availability and use of CHI resources, support project-related work and promote the mission of CHI to inform health and health care policy with objective, unbiased information.

Focus groups

- Held three focus groups to better understand the strengths and weaknesses of the CHI Web site from a usability perspective. Used the information from these focus groups to design Phase IV of the CHI Website.
- Held focus groups with legislators and foundation representatives to get their input on issues and topics on which to focus CHI's policy agenda for 2009.

Information requests

- Responded to more than 120 information requests from constituents across the state on topics ranging from the dental workforce, physician supply models and medically underserved areas to new estimates of Colorado's uninsured, Medicaid and CHP+ enrollees, children who are eligible but not enrolled in these programs, population demographics at the sub-state level, safety net providers and geo-coding of Colorado population data.
- Quoted by or referenced in a number of local and national publications including *AcademyHealth* newsletter, *Denver Post*, *Pueblo Chieftain*, *Colorado Springs Business Journal* and the Leeds School of Business economic report.

Facilitation/Collaboration

- Participated on the Culture of Data Conference planning committee.
- Provided meeting space throughout the year to a variety of community and legislative groups as a community service.

Information dissemination

- Made presentations to a variety of audiences at conferences and meetings across the state. Issues addressed related to Medicaid and CHP+, school-based health centers, Colorado's health care safety net, health care coverage and costs, Colorado's obesity rates, GIS mapping to inform policymakers, health care coverage for older workers and the health care workforce. All presentations were posted to the CHI Web site immediately following the presentation to allow for further access. Audiences included:
 - Colorado Health Professions Workforce Summit
 - Culture of Data Conference
 - National Academy of State Health Policy 21st Annual State Health Policy Conference
 - Colorado Student Nurses Association

- Colorado Public Health Association
- The Colorado General Assembly's Health Care Taskforce
- Oral Health Awareness Colorado! and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved Annual Meeting
- SB07-211 Advisory Committee
- HRSA Colorado Plains Community Strategic Planning Session
- 2008 Colorado Association for School-based Health Care Awards Banquet
- Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Health Committee Meeting
- Rural Health Forum
- Colorado Institute for Leadership Training
- Essential Perspectives on Colorado's Health Care Safety Net Workshop
- Thornton Business Exposition
- 2008 Conference on the Aging Workforce
- Bighorn Health Policy Fellow Leadership Program
- Published five issues of *CHI HealthTalk*, an electronic newsletter, and began using an online service to more efficiently deliver the newsletter as well as e-mail announcements about new CHI products and activities. The newsletter gained 100 new subscribers this year and is now up to 600.
- Spotlighted more than 80 reports, events and other relevant information on CHI, Safety Net and Workforce home pages to help constituents acquire facts and news about health care from within Colorado and across the country.
- Posted approximately 120 HealthStats, Safety Net Stats and Workforce Stats to the Web site to provide users with facts and graphs they can print or download into presentations and publications.

4. BUILDING CHI'S ADMINISTRATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Finalized the CHI Operations Handbook that specifies the fiscal and human resources policies and procedures of the Institute.
- Developed and distributed a CHI Board of Trustees Handbook that includes information about CHI's history, governance structure, policies and procedures, board responsibilities, staffing and related matters.
- Continued to refine the fiscal reporting processes, including the content and format of reports provided to the board of trustees.