



Health Services Research

What is Health Services Research?

"The multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organizational structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviors affect access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and ultimately our health and well-being." (Lohr and Steinwachs, 2002).

Focus Areas of Health Services Research

Costs (Costs to Whom?)

Quality

Access

Health Services Research Question Framework

P-Problem

P-Patient or Population

A-Action

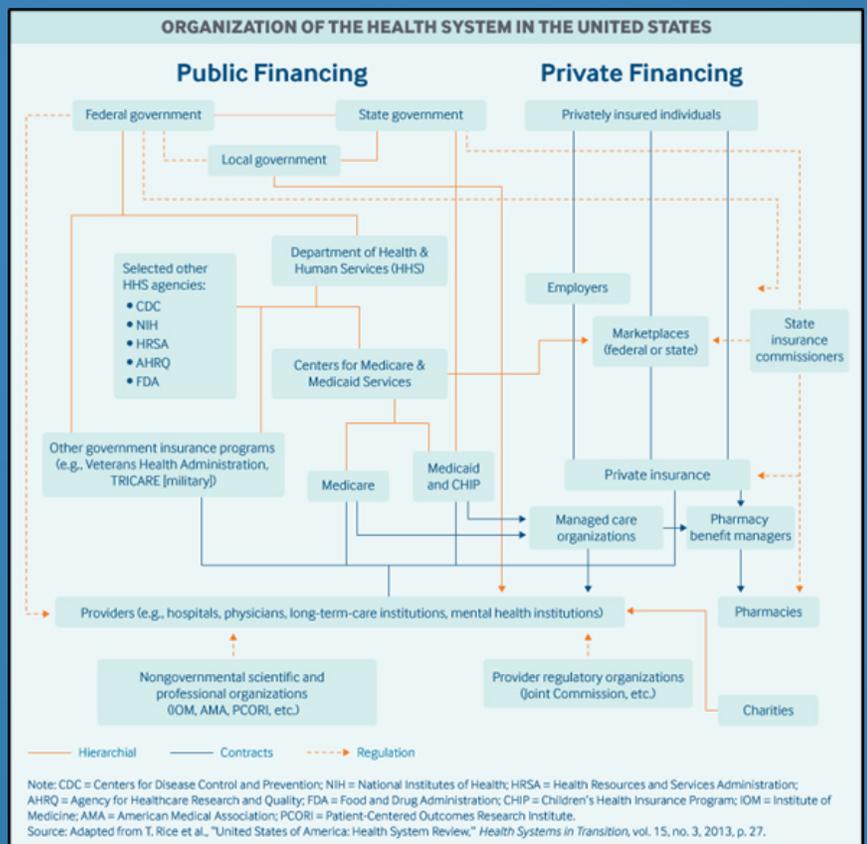
A-Alternative

R-Result

E-Evidence

What Makes Health Services Research Information Seeking Different?

- Different set of databases or sources for searching that creates a complex search.
- Data-focused question(s) or strong use of data.
- Primarily found in grey literature sources.
- No streamlined approach in search strategy.
- Important to have some base knowledge of U.S. Health System (See chart below).
- Broadly defined terms (e.g., cost)
- Continuing to keep information current (e.g., changes in policy)



Source: [Commonwealth Fund](#)



Health Services Research

Data Sources to Use:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

Services (CMS)—Primary Source for
HSR Data

Costs

- [Definitions on Cost](#)
- [Health Care Cost Institute](#)
- [McMaster Cost](#)
- [Medicare Procedure Price Lookup](#)
- [Peterson-Kaiser Family Foundation Health Systems Tracker](#)
- [Medical Expenditure Panel Survey](#)

Journals

- [Health Affairs](#)
- [Health Services Research](#)
- [BMJ Quality & Safety](#)
- [The Milbank Quarterly](#)

Places to Start:

- [Kaiser Family Foundation \(KFF\)](#)
- [Commonwealth Fund](#)

Health Services Research Filters

- [PubMed HSR Queries](#)

Policy

- [Congressional Research Service \(CRS\) Reports](#)
- [National Conference of State Legislatures \(NCSL\)](#)
- [Open States](#)
- [Robert Wood Johnson State Network](#)
- [National Academy for State Health Policy](#)
- [Medicare Payment Advisory Commission \(MedPAC\)](#)

Newsletters & Blogs

- [Daily Update: Kaiser Health News](#)
- [The Hill](#)
- [Health Policy: NEJM](#)
- [BMC Health Services Research](#)
- [Center on Health Insurance Reforms: Georgetown University](#)
- [Politico Pulse](#)