

SIM grant evaluation findings

We've made big strides in transforming health and wellness

Healthier Washington is a movement about how we're changing the health and wellness system. It supports better care, smarter spending, and healthier people. Within Healthier Washington, we're moving toward a culture that supports person-centered care.

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation awarded Washington State a \$65 million State Innovation Models (SIM) grant. SIM funded four years of health system transformation, and helped create Healthier Washington. SIM accelerated much of the state's transformation work, and ended January 31, 2019.

We worked with three evaluation partners to analyze SIM's impacts.

- **University of Washington's** Department of Health Services at the School of Public Health evaluated SIM as a whole, and did specific analyses of several projects.
- The **Center for Community Health and Evaluation** evaluated Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs).
- Washington State Department of Social and Health Services' **Research and Data Analysis** Division evaluated Integrated Managed Care in Southwest Washington.

Here's what we learned

The overall evaluation showed that transformation takes time, and there are some clear, early wins. What we want to accomplish will take years to achieve, but we have set up vital infrastructure to do so. Below are some additional takeaways from the evaluation reports.

What we did during SIM

- We were successful in standing up nine ACHs, targeted practice transformation resources, and a dedicated Analytics Research and Measurement Team.
- Washington State piloted four payment redesign strategies to move toward value-based payment. These strategies showed improvement for people and their families. This included increases in access to primary care and behavioral health treatment, and decreases in emergency department visits.
- SIM increased the state's readiness for health system change in the next decade.
- Stakeholders support our goals and believe Washington State's health and wellness system can change.

Opportunities for growth

In addition to highlighting our progress and achievements, evaluation partners also provided input for how we can improve. We are committed to findings ways to improve the way we work.

- **Data plays a huge role** in health transformation. SIM pushed Health Care Authority (HCA) beyond all previous boundaries in requests for data on many levels. We will continue to resolve data sharing concerns through data governance and continuous quality improvement initiatives.
- We will continue to work with partners to develop options that **sustain our work**. We can accomplish this by convening stakeholders, refining operations and contracts, and applying for new funding opportunities.
- **Clear communication** on vision, goals, and roles helps partners and others understand the purpose and direction of a specific project. Having a definition of success also gives people a blueprint to work from, and identifies ways to collaborate.

To view the SIM evaluation reports, [visit the Reports page](#) of the Healthier Washington website. Evaluation efforts for our Healthier Washington work are ongoing.