GHLI in the United States

GHLI work in the United States includes several areas of research that are integral to successful health systems, including: identifying organizational factors associated with high-quality hospital and hospice care; improving health outcomes for patients with heart attacks; environmental factors that impact obesity rates, and more recently, the many ways social services impact the overall health of a population.

GHLI was a key partner in the Door-to-Balloon Alliance to reduce delays between hospital arrival and life-saving treatment, and the Hospital-to-Home Initiative, which focused on reducing cardiovascular-related hospital readmissions. GHLI also spearheaded Leadership Saves Lives – a unique approach to support hospitals in improving organizational culture to lower mortality related to heart attacks. GHLI continues to identify strategies across the U.S. to reduce institutional care costs such as hospitalization and controlled Medicare expenditures, as our researchers also determine ways utilizing community resources can contribute to lower costs related to health and social services.

GHLI’s research focus brought to the forefront how social determinants and their impact on health outcomes has shown direct links with higher obesity, diabetes, lung cancer, asthma and HIV rates in states that have less spending on social services vs. health care services.

To ensure the best possible health outcomes with the lowest costs, effective coordination among health care providers, social service agencies, and private sector entities serving complex patient needs is critical. GHLI researchers worked to uncover strategies at the local level that achieve this coordination and limit the need for costly care provided in hospitals, nursing homes, and other institutional settings, with a focus on addressing the needs of people over the age of 65 with complex, high-cost health needs. Results of our research showed that communities with higher coordination between hospitals and social service organizations contributed to more efficiently identifying health challenges facing older adults and responding in a more thorough, collective action.

Learn more about GHLI research.