

January 2017

*The Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) was established in 1998, creating a much needed clearinghouse for the intersection between healthcare research and policy. As the state's primary health policy center, ACHI has become a trusted advisor and catalyst for change. ACHI provides critical data, analyses, and strategies that drive decisions and shape public policy surrounding the health and productivity of Arkansans.*

## OVERVIEW

Throughout the past two decades, ACHI has focused on three major areas affecting the health of Arkansas citizens. These include: (1) improvements in **access and quality** of health care, (2) elimination of financial barriers due to a lack of health insurance **coverage**, and (3) mitigation of health risks in order to improve Arkansas's underlying **population health**. Through these efforts, ACHI seeks to facilitate access to high quality, cost effective care for all Arkansans, so that everyone may receive the right care in the right time at the right place.

Within each of these three areas, ACHI has enacted its mission to support policy initiatives, inform program development, and facilitate empirically based research. Through the interweaving of these three modalities, ACHI has emerged as a nationally recognized policy-setting organization that has benefitted Arkansas and has become a model for other states across the nation.

## TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS

ACHI has been a key player in the Arkansas health landscape for nearly twenty years. ACHI has convened key stakeholders, advanced evidence-based policy recommendations, and contributed to significant efforts to improve health.

1998-2001 – Southern Rural Access Program: Increased access to health care in rural, underserved areas of Arkansas

2000 – Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act: Established framework for use and distribution of Arkansas's share of national lawsuit proceeds

2003 – Arkansas Health Data Initiative: Informed health care policy with evidence-based data

2003 – Child Health Advisory Committee: Participated as inaugural members to help establish rules and regulations for nutritional health in schools; also developed statewide school BMI measurement methodology

2006 – ARHealth Networks: Enacted a small business safety net insurance program as recommended by Governor's council

2006 – Clean Indoor Air Act: Protected workers in Arkansas from secondhand smoke in the workplace and protects the citizens of Arkansas from secondhand smoke in public places

2007 – Southern Obesity Summit: Convened southern states to discuss progress and opportunities in the management of obesity

2008 – AR Obesity Policy Summit: Built on the 2007 Southern Obesity Summit specific to the state of Arkansas

2009-2011 – RWJF Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity: Named as national program center

2009 – Tobacco Excise Tax Funds Trauma System: Created an infrastructure that grades accident injuries and provides improved care coordination in time-sensitive situations

2009 – Graduated Drivers Licensing: Protected the lives of young drivers

2010 – Established the Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) and State Health Alliance Records Exchange (SHARE)

2011 – Fluoridated Drinking Water: Protected children from cavities

2011 – Multi-Payer Arkansas Health Care Payment Improvement Initiative: Addressed growing demand for cost containment and measurement of quality in primary care

2012 – Arkansas Workforce Strategic Plan: Established a concept of team-based care and created a blueprint for state workforce needs

2013 – State Innovation Model: Improved Arkansas's health care payment system

2013 – State Obesity Plan: Formed the precursor to Healthy Active Arkansas

2013 – Arkansas Health Care Independence Program & Health Insurance Marketplace: Provided health insurance to many previously uninsured Arkansas residents; also known as the "Private Option"

2014 – Arkansas All Payer Claims Database (APCD): Increased transparency in Arkansas health care

2015 – Healthcare Transparency Initiative: Named ACHI as administrator of APCD for Arkansas Insurance Department