



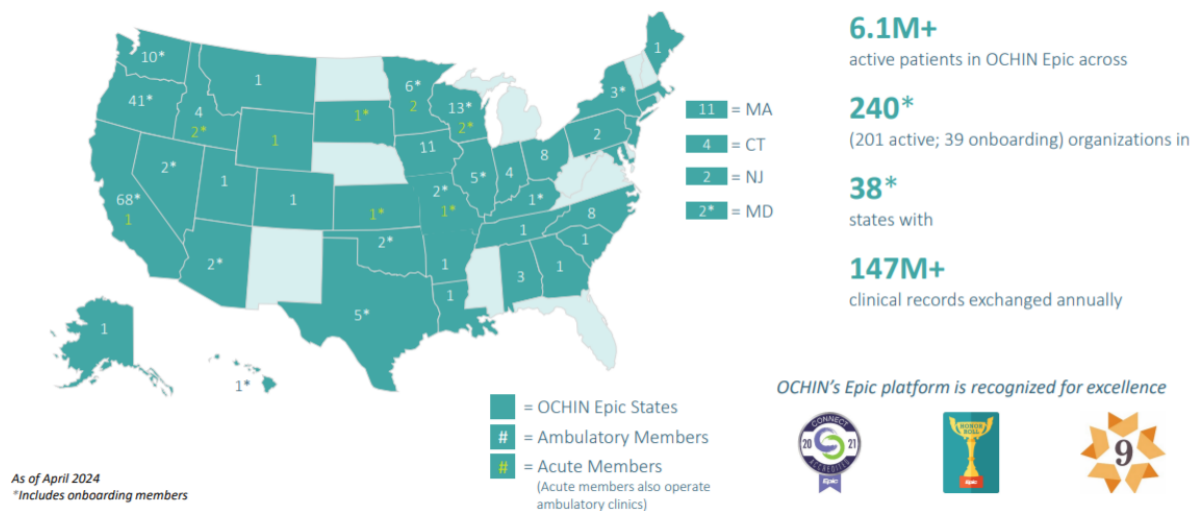
A driving force for health equity

OCHIN Research and Data

What is OCHIN?

[OCHIN, Inc.](#) is a nonprofit leader in equitable health care innovation and a trusted partner to a growing national provider network. We have the nation's largest collection of community health EHR data and more than two decades of experience in practice-based research and project development.

Since its founding in 2000 as an EHR provider for six community health centers (CHCs), OCHIN has grown exponentially to now support more than 240 member organizations with 1,600+ CHCs across 38 states. Our continually expanding portfolio of offerings now includes dozens of EHR-integrated technology solutions and other enhanced services such as support with workflow redesign, reporting, billing, and much more. In 2022, we launched [OCHIN+](#) to help rebuild and diversify the health care workforce through skilled training and recruitment support. Through these efforts, OCHIN is now far more than an EHR provider – we are a trusted consultancy for optimizing whole-patient care at health care delivery sites nationwide.



What is OCHIN Research?

As the country's largest practice-based research network focused on CHCs, OCHIN is uniquely positioned to support and conduct health equity research. [OCHIN's Research Department](#) seeks to advance (1) evidence on actionable drivers of disparities, (2) tools for optimizing patient care in populations facing health disparities, and (3) infrastructure that engages populations historically underrepresented in biomedical research (UBR).

OCHIN Research is home to a highly skilled team of data scientists, investigators, analysts, and project managers. Our expertise includes health equity, social determinants of health, social policy, community engagement, implementation science, clinical informatics, and numerous qualitative and quantitative methodologies and mixed methods approaches. OCHIN Research is supported by well-established research development and administrative services teams, leading to a long track record of [funded](#)

[research](#). Our researchers obtain millions of dollars annually in external grant funding from agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).

We are dedicated to conducting innovative, impactful research that engages UBR communities. As of May 2024, OCHIN researchers have produced over 350 peer-reviewed [publications](#) on a variety of mental and physical health conditions (e.g., anxiety, depression, cancer, diabetes, firearm-related trauma, HIV, hypertension, smoking, sleep-related disorders, vaccine safety, etc.), social risks, and health policies impacting UBR populations and communities served in CHC-settings.

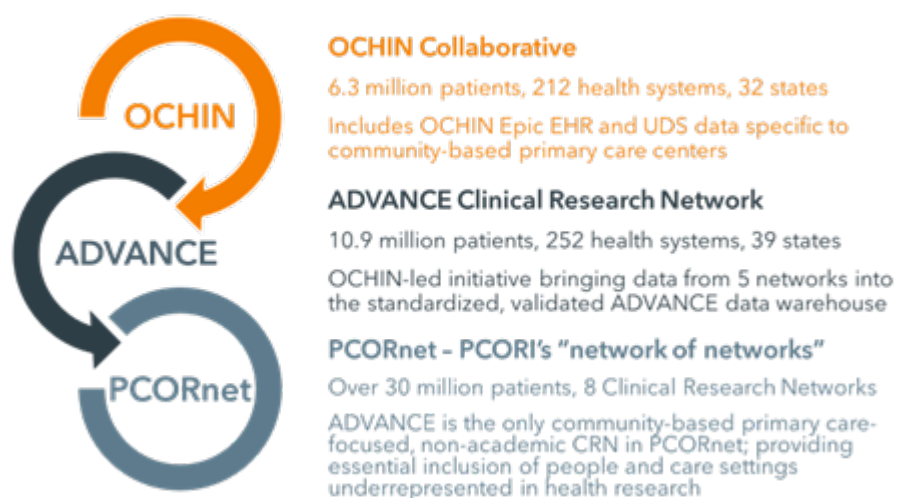
There are many ways in which we partner with other researchers and institutions, such as providing access to EHR data, engaging health center and community collaborators, supporting recruitment, and conducting quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis. OCHIN Research is equipped to support both data-only and intervention studies.

OCHIN as a Scientific Partner

As stewards of our members' patient data, we ensure its appropriate and responsible use. As such, we expect to serve in all aspects of the research in which we engage. We scope potential projects to ensure our services and staff are accurately represented. OCHIN Research purposefully does not operate solely as a data provider but prioritizes scientific partnership.

What are OCHIN Data?

OCHIN has the nation's most extensive data on primary care quality and outcomes in CHCs. OCHIN Research maintains two main data warehouses: the OCHIN Research Data Warehouse (RDW) and the ADVANCE Data Warehouse (DW).



As a Data Coordinating Center, we can support:

- Data management, including quality, security, integrity, protection, retention, harmonization, and continuity planning

- Statistical support, including design, analysis, extraction, manipulation, analysis, and methodologic and modeling approaches
- Primary quantitative and qualitative data collection in clinics, including surveys, interviews, focus groups, etc.
- Project management, including performance metrics, service agreements, quality assurance, and administrative and technical support for project implementation, operations, and dissemination
- Regulatory and compliance oversight, including IRB, policies, procedures, compliance training, data-sharing agreements, contracting, record retention, and auditing

OCHIN Research Data Warehouse (RDW)

The OCHIN RDW comprises data sourced from the OCHIN Network:

- 6.5+ million total distinct patients over all time
- 4.5+ million distinct patients with a visit within the last 3 years
- 4.1+ million distinct patients with a medical ambulatory visit in the last 3 years

OCHIN RDW data elements include:

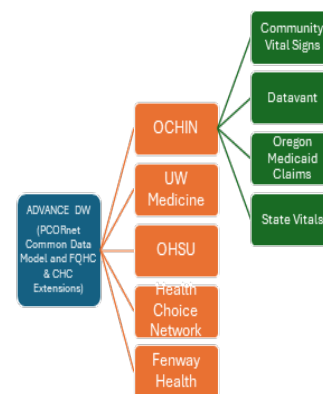
- Primary care and patient demographic characteristics
- community-level social determinants of health (Community Vital Signs)
- Area-level Geodata

While physician-level data are not currently available within the RDW, the OCHIN Research team has experience linking OCHIN RDW data with Oregon Medicaid claims and Datavant Death Index data.

ADVANCE

ADVANCE (Accelerating Data Value Across a National Community Health Center Network) is a larger, PCORI-funded Clinical Research Network (CRN) led by OCHIN in partnership with Fenway Health, Health Choice Network, Oregon Health & Science University, and the University of Washington. ADVANCE is one of eight CRNs in the larger PCORnet network and using the PCORnet Common Data Model (CDM). ADVANCE integrates outpatient EHR and community data for CHC patients across the United States and is the largest national data set for people receiving care in community-based primary care settings including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Community Health Centers, and lookalike organizations. As the only CRN not led by an academic health center, ADVANCE ensures inclusion of populations who experience health disparities, including people who are publicly insured, uninsured, or underinsured.

ADVANCE data includes all elements of primary care (diagnoses, orders, prescriptions, procedures, etc.) and well-populated patient demographic characteristics data (race/ethnicity, primary language, socioeconomic status, insurance status, etc.). Geographic data are also included for patients seen in the OCHIN and HCN networks. The ADVANCE DW comprises data dating back to 2012; overview information is available in the ADVANCE Short Guide and ADVANCE Data Dictionary available in the [ADVANCE Data](#) section of the website (www.advancecollaborative.org).



How Does One Partner with OCHIN Research?

OCHIN has a formal process for reviewing new research opportunities and potential partnerships. In this process, the relevance and feasibility of each proposal is reviewed in relation to OCHIN's mission, priorities, and resources. The first step in this process is to complete and submit a [Partner Form](#). Once received, the project will be presented to OCHIN's scientific and executive leadership for review and approval of OCHIN Research participation. Projects are reviewed on a case-by-case basis based on a set of criteria focused on feasibility, fundability, and mission alignment.

Due to a finite set of resources dedicated to supporting proposal development, projects are not guaranteed a spot in our proposal pipeline simply by submitting a partner form. If approved by the scientific and organizational review committees, an OCHIN Research Development Scientist will be assigned to your project and will contact you regarding next steps.

It is not possible for OCHIN to provide potential research partners with specific numbers (e.g., disease conditions, demographics, etc.) relevant to a particular research question until a Partner Form is received and approval for proposal development is obtained.

To successfully complete the Partner Form, potential partners must provide a conceptual scope of the work involved. For most requests, this will require clarity regarding:

- The research question(s) that is being addressed
- The funding mechanism(s) identified as a good fit
- The type of data that will be needed (e.g., EHR data only, prospective qualitative or quantitative data, etc.)
- The set of activities for which OCHIN team members would be responsible and those for which the applicant partner would be responsible (e.g., who will conduct recruitment and/or data collection (where relevant), who analyzes the data, etc.)

Wherever possible, a link to the specific Funding Opportunity Announcement is preferred. Please note that OCHIN does not typically partner on K or R21 opportunities.

OCHIN Research requires that a Partner Form be submitted at least 12 weeks prior to the sponsor deadline to ensure effective review and collaboration. If you have additional questions, please email researchcollaboration@ochin.org.

We look forward to the opportunity to partner with you!