



Introduction to Services

Director: Christy A. Visher, PhD

The Center for Drug and Health Studies (CDHS) conducts collaborative and engaging primary and applied research, including program evaluation, on substance use disorders, behavioral health, health risk behaviors, health services, and the criminal justice system. CDHS is committed to producing high quality and scientifically rigorous research on a broad range of issues. CDHS provides service to the State of Delaware as well as conducting research with a national focus.



About the Center

- ▶ Part of the Sociology and Criminology Department at UD
- ▶ Located in Newark on Main Street, near the central campus
- ▶ Director leads 16 full time researchers (6 PhDs), 2 part time researchers, and 6 associated faculty members
- ▶ Support from graduate and undergraduate students and survey administrators
- ▶ Partners with Federal, State, and community agencies to evaluate and support impactful programs

Evaluation Expertise

- ▶ CDHS has conducted research and evaluation since its founding in 1991
- ▶ Substantial recent experience in many types of evaluation and data collection methodologies
- ▶ Over 20 ongoing evaluation and research projects with a health and human service focus
- ▶ Collaborative partnerships with state agencies such as DSAMH, DPH, DOC, and DOE
- ▶ Subject matter expertise outside of evaluation include behavioral health, disabilities, and criminal justice

Evaluation Approach

- ▶ Trauma informed and culturally responsive
- ▶ Utilization-focused evaluation approach: we engage all evaluation users at all stages of the process, as much as possible, with an end goal that evaluation findings will be useful and will help inform program planning
- ▶ Research and evaluation methods tailored to meet client and project needs.

Notable Projects

- ▶ Program Evaluation of the Strategic Prevention Framework-PFS (Planet Youth Coalition/SAMHSA)
- ▶ The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on People with Disabilities in Delaware (Freedom Center for Independent Living/Administration on Community Living)
- ▶ Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (DSAMH/SAMHSA)
- ▶ Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Evaluation (DSAMH; DSCYF/SAMHSA)
- ▶ Delaware Child Psychiatry Access Program Evaluation (DSCYF/HRSA)
- ▶ Prison Research and Innovation Network (Arnold Ventures/Urban Institute)

Learn more: <https://www.cdhs.udel.edu/>

CDHS: Areas of Expertise

Evaluation Types

Our team has years of demonstrated expertise in these evaluation types:

- Formative Evaluation (i.e., evaluability assessments and needs assessments)
- Summative Evaluation
- Process Evaluation (i.e., program monitoring)
- Implementation Evaluation
- Outcome Evaluation
- Impact Analysis
- Economic Evaluation
- Trend Analysis and Projections

Methodology

We use a mixed-method approach to provide the most robust and meaningful evaluation possible, including:

- Interviews and focus groups with diverse populations
- Questionnaires and surveys - online and in person administration
- Public record and document studies
- Observations
- Secondary data analysis

What can CDHS contribute to your project?

We work with partners to use data to tell the story of the work that they do. This includes...

- Evaluation design, management, and reporting (including tool development)
- Collaborative development of performance goals
- Primary data collection and data mining
- Policy analysis
- Data visualization and dissemination, including dashboard development, GIS mapping
- Build staff, organization, and community capacity through training and technical assistance
- Progress monitoring and reporting
- Support for state and federal reporting
- Organizational effectiveness assessments
- Health Impact Assessments
- Gap analysis
- Research and interpret federal guidance to determine impact
- Performance assessments
- Environmental scans
- Barrier assessments
- Theory of change and logic model development
- Data security and HIPAA compliance
- Qualitative data analysis
- Quantitative analysis (descriptive, correlation, regression, multivariate and many more)

Our work provides flexible and responsive feedback that supports the development and continuation of successful behavioral health, criminal justice, and substance use programs.

We translate data into actionable items to move agencies toward their goals.

Contact Dr. Christy Visher at visher@udel.edu
Visit our website for more information: <https://www.cdhs.udel.edu/>