CONNECTED COLLEGE HEALTH NETWORK

Universities unite to build a nationwide learning network of health, wellness, and student achievement data
The Connected College Health Network bridges the gap among universities to collectively improve student health and wellness outcomes by sharing data from universities across our nation.

“...Health is worth more than learning.” - Thomas Jefferson

THE POWER OF CONNECTEDNESS: IMPROVING COLLECTIVE OUTCOMES, DRIVING STUDENT SUCCESS

All too often health and wellness are taken for granted on our college campuses nationwide. We tend to focus on the intellectual needs of our 19 million college students but often overlook the critical connection between learning and the physical and mental health of our students.

No method exists nationally of knowing how the health and wellness needs of our students are being met across college campuses, and a measurable connection to retention and student achievement outcomes remains elusive. Especially acute is the difficulty today in measuring health disparities and the lack of tested interventions nationwide.

The Connected College Health Network seeks to change all of that.

For the first time in our history, the Connected College Health Network will build a learning network across universities nationwide that will aggregate campus health and counseling center clinical data, population-level data, academic achievement data, and program information to provide a composite view of college health and wellness. We will be able to see for the first time an accurate picture of the services being delivered and to collectively measure their impact on academic performance. Simultaneously, we will be able to empower universities to access data from their peer institutions in order to identify opportunities to learn from their peers and to improve outcomes and efficiency of their own health, wellness, and counseling centers.

The American College Health Association (ACHA) brings four unique assets that makes it uniquely qualified to build the national learning network:

- Recognized leader in the assessment of college health and wellness through our National College Health Assessment, which has surveyed well over 1 million students nationally
- Experience and track record of fostering innovative and interdisciplinary solutions
- 360 degree network among our membership of leading universities, health insurers, and electronic health record (EHR) system vendors
- Reputation and credibility capable of unifying a broad range of stakeholders
IMPLEMENTING A NATIONAL VISION OF INTERCONNECTED COLLEGE HEALTH AND WELLNESS

To build the linkages among universities today, ACHA must develop new technologies and infrastructure that do not currently exist in order to provide access to easily-extractable data and to build systems and interfaces that can compile and meaningfully present the data. Connected College Health Network is guided by five key elements:

- **Convene** universities, government agencies, and private institutions to develop a composite set of data that can be accessed across universities nationally

- **Develop a common method** to collect and transmit the data through member institutions’ student information systems

- **Build a centralized system** to collect data from institutions and implement a data analytics system that enables institutions to access data across the network

- **Build strong partnerships** with policy makers to provide a direct path for disseminating new findings

- **Integrate with national surveillance networks** to provide timely data regarding college health and wellness and provide early warnings of college-based disease outbreaks

“Coming to campus was an eye-opener as a student and working in residence-life. I’ve been connected to those with depression, suicides, and even someone that had a miscarriage. As a twenty year old, I wasn’t prepared for this. As students, we rely on the support system that college health and wellness services provide to help guide us to be our healthiest self.”

- Rachael Sawyer, Winona State University
MAKING A PERMANENT IMPACT ON STUDENT SUCCESS

Through our collective success, the Connected College Health Network (CCHN) will:

1. **Create a system to measure health outcomes and academic success.**
   Correlating student health and wellness to academic achievement across college campuses is not possible today. The CCHN will collect data from individual universities and will integrate with the Department of Education's IPEDs system in order to assess the effect of health and wellness outcomes on student achievement and retention and graduation rates.

2. **Reduce health disparities among young adults attending institutions of higher education throughout the United States.**
   As a nation, we realize that health disparities exist but are unable to quantify them nationally across campuses. CCHN will provide a national methodology to assess health disparities, correlate the relationship to student educational attainment, and allow for the formation of interventions that can be used to drive improvement across campuses nationwide.

3. **Build a national health and wellness surveillance network across universities.**
   Collecting data from universities across campuses will allow CCHN to evaluate trends in diagnosis codes and self-reported mental health status indicators in order to provide an early-warning system for changing trends in student health nationally. These trends will enable universities to evaluate changes in utilization and medication prescribing patterns. Geographic information will be utilized to create heat maps of emerging trends and population health risks.

4. **Enhance student health outcomes through peer learning.**
   Based on the knowledge gained through the CCHN, universities will identify factors and trends that can improve the delivery of health and wellness services. ACHA will develop custom dashboards for institutions to help them decipher their own findings and will create online communities of universities that wish to work together in virtual teams to improve specific aspects of their college health and wellness programs.

5. **Benchmark university health and wellness services nationally.**
   The CCHN will enable ACHA to develop industry benchmarks for critical operational and clinical measures of success. An integrated data view across universities will enable CCHN to show the number and type of interventions being conducted by college health and wellness providers as well as the costs of services delivered. CCHN will enable a first-ever composite view of antibiotic and prescription drug utilization. ACHA will evaluate data from CCHN to establish benchmarks that can be used to enhance ACHA's Healthy Campus program: [www.acha.org/HealthyCampus](http://www.acha.org/HealthyCampus).

6. **Improve colleges and universities ability to inform and influence national health care policy.**
   Today, claims data are used exclusively to identify key health care trends; however, in college health and wellness, there is a realization that many services are never billed to insurance (e.g., mental health services). CCHN will create a new lens into key health trends among the nation’s college students and will be used to inform policy makers as they examine changes to our nation’s health care system.
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PARTICIPATING CCHN INSTITUTIONS

American University
Arizona State University
Atlantic Cape Community College
Bentley University
Case Western Reserve University
City University of New York System
Columbia University
Cornell University
East Carolina University
Emory University
Gonzaga University
Humboldt State University
Indiana University
Iowa State University
North Carolina State University
Northwestern University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
St. John's University-Queens New York
Texas A&M University
The University of Texas at Austin
Tulane University
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Central Florida
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
University of Florida
University of Kentucky
University of Minnesota
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of North Dakota, Grand Forks
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rochester
University of South Carolina
University of the Virgin Islands
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Utah State University

AMERICAN COLLEGE HEALTH ASSOCIATION: NEARLY 100 YEARS OF IMPROVING COLLEGE HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Since its inception in 1920, the American College Health Association has been dedicated to the health needs of students at colleges and universities. It is the principal leadership organization for advancing the health of college students and campus communities through advocacy, education, and research.

ACHA’s membership represents the diversity of the higher education community: two and four year schools, public and private, large and small across professionals of all disciplines.