



MN Community Measurement

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM MNCM PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

2023 was an exciting year for MN Community Measurement with many significant achievements. I am delighted to share MNCM's annual report for 2023 with you.

The report highlights MNCM's 2023 work, accomplishments, and contributions to achieving our mission of empowering health care stakeholders with data to drive improvement. It also acknowledges and thanks the supporters, volunteers, and staff who make it all possible.

In many ways, the accomplishments of 2023 represent the culmination of years-long efforts to transform the ways that MNCM collects and uses data, and to develop capabilities that add value for our community and stakeholders in new ways. In 2023, transition to the modernized PIPE data collection system continued at a rapid pace, MNCM's CHIRP program to streamline data sharing between health care providers and payers was implemented, data collection systems were enhanced to incorporate data on social risk factors, MNCM launched a new project with analytics to support quality improvement for chronic kidney disease, and MNCM secured validation from NCQA's Data Aggregator Validation program for certain streams of clinical data. Each one of these accomplishments represents a major achievement on its own, and MNCM has much to be proud of for its work in 2023.

MNCM is thankful for the engagement and wisdom of MNCM's multi-stakeholder Board of Directors and the many other volunteers who serve on committees and workgroups. Our community partners include health plans, health care providers, state agencies, employers, researchers, and consumers. Each of these perspectives is critically important to MNCM's ongoing work as an objective, trusted source of relevant and actionable information to drive health care improvement. Thank you for your continued partnership. As always, we welcome all those who wish to join us in support of this important work.

Sincerely,

Julie J. Sonier, MPA
MNCM President and CEO

We are pleased to share MNCM's 2023 Annual Report with the community. MNCM is a multi-stakeholder nonprofit organization that empowers health care decision makers with meaningful data to drive improvement. This report describes MNCM's activities and accomplishments in 2023 to achieve this goal.

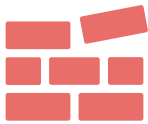
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Special note: Click on images of reports in this document to access the full report from the MNCM website.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MNCM's strategic focus in 2023 included four key priorities: maintaining and building on our strong foundation, innovating and modernizing to meet stakeholders' evolving needs, developing and expanding our relationships to achieve broader impact, and making health equity a priority that is embedded in all areas of our work.



Maintain and Build On Our Strong Foundation

- » Objective source of reliable data
- » Meaningful and relevant measures
- » Incorporate social risk factors into data collection



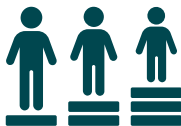
Innovation and Modernization

- » Transition to modernized data collection (PIPE)
- » Streamline data flows between payers and providers
- » Enhance analytics and insights



Build Relationships for Broader Impact

- » Support state health care purchasing and population health
- » Partnerships to advance common goals in priority areas
- » Research collaboration



Prioritize Health Equity

- » Objective source of reliable data
- » Meaningful and relevant measures
- » Incorporate social risk factors into data collection

Highlights of MNMCM's accomplishments in 2023 in these areas include:

» Modernizing the ways that MNMCM collects and uses data

The transition to MNMCM's PIPE data collection system continued in 2023, with about 53 percent of the data for publicly reported measures using clinical data submitted via PIPE (up from 28 percent the previous year). Onboarding of additional medical groups continued throughout 2023, with medical groups representing over 87 percent of clinics and 95 percent of patients engaged in the process by year-end. During 2023, MNMCM also modernized the way that it receives data from payers and enhanced its data management and analytics capacities.

» Advancing MNMCM's unique roadmap for collection of social risk factors data

Following up on its work in 2022 to develop a roadmap for collecting and harmonizing data on social risk factors (SRF), MNMCM expanded the functionality of its PIPE data collection system to enable integration of these data. In accordance with the roadmap, SRF data will be collected in a way that 1.) accommodates providers' use of multiple approaches and tools for gathering this information from patients, 2.) avoids creating additional burden for providers, and 3.) will be robust and adaptable as national approaches and expectations evolve. Health care providers that have onboarded to PIPE are able to include SRF data in their annual data submissions for Measurement Year 2023.

» Implementing the Common Health Information Reporting Partnership (CHIRP)

CHIRP is an MNMCM initiative aimed at streamlining and standardizing data flows between providers and payers. The goal is to provide access to more complete and timely information for use in quality improvement and population health activities, and to increase efficiencies for health care providers and payers. In 2023, MNMCM finalized use cases, policies, and data standards for the provider-to-payer component of CHIRP; similar work for CHIRP's payer-to-provider component is expected to be complete in early 2024.

» Driving health care quality improvement with new analytic tools

MNMCM's Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) dashboard project was launched in 2023. The project represents an opportunity to significantly improve testing, diagnosis, and management of CKD in patients who have diabetes. The CKD dashboard project leverages the same PIPE data standard that is used for quality measurement and public reporting, which means that there is no extra work for health care providers to submit data. An advisory committee to the project recommended nine measures for inclusion in the dashboard, which are not publicly reported. Health care providers that choose to participate receive timely data on their own performance, how they compare to other initiative participants, and patient-level gap reports to support quality improvement activities. In 2024, participants will also have access to a learning collaborative where they can identify and share best practices.

» Securing NCQA validation of clinical data streams

In 2023, MNMCM earned the Validated Data Stream designation in the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Data Aggregator Validation program. The validation applies to data aggregated through the PIPE data system and shared through the CHIRP program. Data streams that earn validation undergo a rigorous, end-to-end look at the quality and integrity of data and the procedures used to manage and safeguard it. The process includes review in three key areas: 1.) MNMCM's processes, policies, and procedures for ingesting, managing, and aggregating data; 2.) MNMCM's ability to export clinical data using specific formats; and 3.) Primary Source Verification (PSV) of clinical data from medical groups to confirm that MNMCM data match the data in medical groups' electronic health records. The designation as a validated data stream means that certain clinical data aggregated by MNMCM via PIPE can now be accepted as standard supplemental data in HEDIS® audits without additional Primary Source Verification. This is expected to reduce burden and cost for both health plans and health care providers participating in the CHIRP program.

ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY

Advancing health equity is a key priority for MNCM. Although this goal is embedded in all MNCM activities, it is also articulated as its own strategic priority to ensure that being accountable for how MNCM's work advances equity and reduces disparities remains top of mind. MNCM's key accomplishments in 2023 related to improving health equity include the following:

- » Implementing the roadmap for collection of social risk factors data
- » Explicitly incorporating health equity into MNCM's processes for reviewing current quality measures and prioritizing future measures
- » Ensuring that new MNCM projects, such as the CKD dashboard initiative, incorporate health equity considerations as a priority from the beginning

In addition, MNCM continued to publish its annual report on health care disparities by race, ethnicity, language, and country of origin and its report on disparities by insurance type which is prepared in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

MNCM PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

PUBLIC REPORTS

In 2023, MNCM published seven reports on health care quality and cost in Minnesota. Because these reports aggregate data across health care providers and across health plans, they offer a uniquely comprehensive view of health care quality, health care disparities, and health care cost and utilization that isn't available from any other source.

Reports published between January and May addressed the quality and cost of health care delivered in 2021, showing some rebound from the disruptions in care that characterized the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reports published between August and December address quality and cost of care delivered in 2022, revealing that most health care quality indicators remain below their pre-pandemic levels, while cost and utilization of most types of health care services have returned to historic trends.

Reports on health care delivered in 2021:



Health Care Quality Report
Part 2



Health Care Quality Report
Part 3



Health Care Cost and
Utilization



Health Care Disparities by
Insurance Type

Reports on health care delivered in 2022:



Health Care Quality Report
Part 1



Health Care Disparities by
Race, Ethnicity, Language,
and Country of Origin



Health Care Cost and
Utilization



Health Care Quality Report
Part 2

DATA TOOLS

In addition to summary reports showing statewide trends and variation, MNCM makes its medical group and clinic level data about the quality and cost measures included on its [slate of measures](#) for public reporting available in a variety of ways. These include:



[Detailed appendices to
public reports](#)



[At-a-glance medical
group and clinic profiles
available through the
MNHealthScores page](#)



MNCM's Dynamic Tables
benchmarking tool
(available to members
only)



Medical group
benchmarking reports
(available to members
only)

WEBINARS AND EVENTS

On April 26, 2023, MNCM held its Annual Conference in-person for the first time since 2019, with attendance of over 220 people. The conference included presentations and discussions on timely topics such as addressing social risk factors to improve health outcomes and health equity, a deep dive on social risk factors data collection, MNCM's CHIRP program, the MNCARES research study, the CKD improvement initiative, the ongoing transition to data collection via PIPE, and factors that distinguish high-performing medical groups in diabetes care.



In addition, MNCM presented seven public webinars in 2023.



Health Care Quality Report, Parts 2 and 3
February 9
[SLIDES](#) // [RECORDING](#)



Cost and Utilization Report
March 1
[SLIDES](#) // [RECORDING](#)



Social Risk Factors Data Collection Roadmap
March 22
[SLIDES](#) // [RECORDING](#)



Health Care Disparities by Insurance Type Report
May 23
[SLIDES](#) // [RECORDING](#)



Health Care Quality Report, Part 1
September 21
[SLIDES](#) // [RECORDING](#)



Health Care Disparities by Race, Ethnicity, Language, and Country of Origin
November 14
[SLIDES](#) // [RECORDING](#)



Cost and Utilization Report
December 13
[SLIDES](#) // [RECORDING](#)

STATE AND NATIONAL COLLABORATION AND IMPACT

Highlights of MNCM's involvement at both the state and national levels in 2023 include the following:

- » MNCM continued to partner with the **Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Human Services, and the State Employee Group Insurance Program** at Minnesota Management and Budget to provide data and analysis that supports the State's needs related to population health, monitoring health care quality and health care disparities, and health care purchasing.
- » Partnering with the **Minnesota Department of Health and HealthPartners Institute**, MNCM is engaged in a research project to compare the effectiveness of different models of care coordination. Please see the sidebar to the right for more information.
- » MNCM is an active participant in the **Minnesota Electronic Health Records Consortium**, a collaborative effort among Minnesota health systems and other organizations that aims to leverage clinical data to inform research and policy. MNCM's role is to enable participation by smaller medical groups that do not have the capacity to participate in the work of the Consortium on their own.
- » Several MNCM-developed quality measures continue to be used nationally by the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** in payment incentive programs.
- » MNCM is actively involved in the work of the **Core Quality Measures Collaborative (CQMC)**, a public-private partnership that aims to align quality measures for value-based payment across public and private payers. Several MNCM measures are included in CQMC core measure sets, and MNCM participates on the CQMC Steering Committee and several workgroups.
- » MNCM also served on the **Partnership for Quality Measurement's Pre-Rulemaking Measure Review (PRMR) Committee** that advises CMS on the selection of quality measures for use in federal programs.
- » Through its active involvement in **Civitas Networks for Health**, MNCM collaborates with other regional health improvement and health data organizations to advance common goals related to the use of data for improving health care quality, affordability, and equity.

In 2023, MNCM continued its partnership with the **Minnesota Department of Health and HealthPartners Institute** on the Minnesota Care Coordination Effectiveness Study (MNCARES). This study is focused on learning which approaches to care coordination for patients with complex health care needs and/or high health care costs produce the best outcomes for patients.

As the study entered its final year in 2023, the study team began analyzing study data and writing papers that highlight learnings that have emerged regarding how care systems and care coordinators can produce the best care quality, utilization, and patient-centered outcomes.

The following papers were published in 2023. Additional learnings will be released throughout 2024.

- » [Solberg LI, Bergdall AR, Ziegenfuss JY, JaKa MM, Whitebird RR, Chrenka EA, Beran MS, McDonald K, Laplante B, Dehmer SP. Care coordination in primary care: mapping the territory. American Journal of Managed Care. 2023;29\(10\): In press. Preprint posted online July 12, 2023.](#)
- » [Whitebird RR, Solberg LI, JaKa MM, Kindt JM, Bergdall AR, LaPlante B, Dehmer SP. The Impact of COVID-19 on Patients Receiving Care Coordination in Primary care: a Qualitative study. Published online June 15, 2023.](#)
- » [JaKa MM, Beran MS, Andersen JA, Whitebird RR, Bergdall AR, Kindt J, Dehmer SD, Winger MJ, Solberg LI. \(2023\). The role of care coordination: a qualitative study of care coordinator perceptions. Journal of Nursing Care Quality. Published online May 9, 2023.](#)

MNCM MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND STAFF

HEALTH PLAN MEMBERS

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota
- HealthPartners
- Hennepin Health
- Medica
- PreferredOne
- PrimeWest Health
- South Country Health Alliance
- UCare

SUPPORTING MEMBERS AND MISSION SUPPORTERS

Medical Group Supporting Members

- Allina
- Andros ENT & Sleep Center
- CentraCare Health
- Entira Family Clinics
- Essentia Health
- Fairview/HealthEast/UMP
- HealthPartners Medical Group
- Hennepin Healthcare
- North Memorial Health
- Ortonville Area Health Services
- Premier Women's Health of Minnesota
- Welia Health

Advocacy Group Supporting Members

- MN Rural Health Cooperative
- Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
- Medical Alley Association

Mission Supporters

- Novo Nordisk

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Non-voting Members

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SECRETARY Julie Sonier, *President and CEO, MN Community Measurement**

*Continuing in 2024

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