

# The Future of Health Services Research: Advancing Health Systems Research and Practice in the United States

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## The impact of health services research

As the principal tool for determining the performance of health practices, technologies, and strategies, health services research provides the foundation for the progress, the results, and the value we get from health and health care. Since the 1960s, health services research has provided the foundation for progress, effectiveness, and value in health care. Ironically, at a time when appreciation has never been higher for both the need and potential from health services research, the political and financial support for sustenance and growth appear to be weakening. In response, the National Academy of Medicine, with support from AcademyHealth, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Board of Family Medicine, American Society of Anesthesiologists, Association of American Medical Colleges, Federation of American Hospitals, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, held a workshop to examine federal and non-federal funding trends, discuss the major contributions of the field, and identify strategies for improving the ability of the field to address key priorities over the next decade. Participant discussions included a recognition of the critical need for federal support for health services research, as well as a desire for the field to better articulate its priorities, demonstrate its utility, and transform to meet the needs of a 21st century health care system.

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