

VCHIP's mission is to optimize the health of children and families by initiating and supporting measurement-based efforts to enhance private and public child health practice.



Vermont Child Health Improvement Program

"VCHIP is what health partnerships are all about. Through this one organization we can bring together our medical school and university in collaboration with the health department, community agencies and programs, payors, and health care providers – all focused on one goal – improving the quality and in turn the health care we provide to children and families."

LEWIS R. FIRST, MD, Professor & Chair, Department of Pediatrics, University of Vermont College of Medicine
Chief of Pediatrics, Vermont Children's Hospital, Fletcher Allen Health Care

What are VCHIP's Goals

Promote the will for change with quality improvement tools, evidence-based guidelines, and expert coaching to aid practitioners in their efforts to achieve optimal health care for children, youth, and families.

Support collaboration among public and private health organizations to facilitate meaningful and sustainable improvements in health delivery systems.

Share results of successful measurement-based initiatives through trainings and publications that disseminate best practices, highlight effective models of care, and inform policy.

Translate new research and methods into practice by combining our expertise in the fields of improvement science, public health, academic and clinical medicine, and health policy.

"Our partnerships with VCHIP have been invaluable! They have worked to promote early developmental screening and integrated approaches to family support, and have helped the state transform research-based activities into everyday program expectations that support families and their children before they get swept up in a crisis."

SUZANNE SANTARCANGELO, Ph.D, Agency of Human Services, Director of Healthcare Operations, Compliance and Improvement



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What is VCHIP

The Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP) is a population-based maternal and child health services research and quality improvement program of the University of Vermont.

Research has shown that health care professionals want to provide excellent care. However, most clinicians recognize that current systems, whether in practice, hospital, or community, do not allow them to provide excellent care all of the time. VCHIP supports our partners in their efforts to enhance care by providing tools and techniques to improve the health of specific populations. We actively assist clinicians through measurement-based assessments of current care delivery. By providing practical feedback and support, we help practices identify specific and achievable improvements in the health outcomes of children and families.

VCHIP also provides expertise to organizations outside Vermont that share our mission. We encourage conversations across the many organizations serving children and families, and we offer technical assistance to help inform state and national policy. This collaborative approach – guided by best practices, clearly defined measurement, and extensive experience – holds the best promise of improving the practice of public and private health care across increasingly complex delivery systems.

“In collaboration with VCHIP, St. Johnsbury Pediatrics has been able to maximize the quality of care for children in our community. VCHIP has been helpful in building successful standards and expediting the process for our practice to achieve NCQA (National Committee for Quality Assurance) Recognition.”

CHERYL STAHLER, Practice Office Manager, St. Johnsbury Pediatrics

How VCHIP Works

VCHIP has extensive experience in improvement science, public health, academic medicine, and health policy. We bring our proven knowledge and experience with best practices to all our projects and engage local and national experts to advise the process. VCHIP focuses on **providing expertise and support**, whether to local clinicians interested in implementing changes in their office systems, to state policy leaders looking to make informed decisions, or to national organizations seeking system-wide transformation.

Improvement initiatives begin with the critical step of selecting and **defining measures** that are used to test changes and track progress. Collected dynamically over time, data provide critical information about current processes as well as the long-term impact of quality improvement initiatives. With expertise gathered from more than 45 local, state, and national projects, VCHIP brings a wealth of experience in program planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Along with solid data, practitioners need the knowledge, tools, and support to change systems and improve the quality of the care they deliver to patients and families. Through research into the latest evidenced-based guidelines, we **develop educational materials and tools** to better inform health care practices as well as provide consultation and training on how to integrate best practices into current care delivery systems. To **accelerate learning**, VCHIP coordinates multi-level discussions where health professionals have the opportunity to learn from one another. VCHIP also has been called upon to act as a resource for many national initiatives aimed at enhancing private and public maternal and child health practice.

“The most valuable assistance from VCHIP has been to evaluate if we are really doing what we think we are doing and if our families are receiving the care we believe we are providing.” FRED HOLMES, MD, Mousetrap Pediatrics

Who are VCHIP’s Partners

To build a shared vision of quality health care for children and families, VCHIP facilitates cross-functional partnerships including researchers, practitioners, insurers, professional organizations, and government. These **collaborations** provide a unique opportunity to listen and learn from one another, gather fresh ideas and **innovative solutions**, and inform public health policy as we continue to strive together toward the right care, for every person, every time.

- VCHIP is honored to work in collaboration with:
- American Academy of Pediatrics – Vermont Chapter (AAP-VT)
- Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)
- Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care Administration (BISHCA)
- National Improvement Partnership Network (NIPN)
- Vermont Academy of Family Physicians (VAFP)
- Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS)
- Vermont Children’s Hospital at Fletcher Allen Health Care
- Vermont Department of Health (VDH)
- Vermont Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- Vermont Program for Quality on Health Care (VPQHC)

“VCHIP is a perfect example of how state groups can come together around a common goal and achieve unprecedented results for children and providers. In my work in both Florida and Ohio, I often turned to VCHIP staff and faculty for technical assistance and guidance on building responsive, effective programs.”

LISA SIMPSON, MB, BCH, MPH, FAAP, President & CEO, AcademyHealth