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# Research Week 2024

## Measuring the financial impact and net value of goods and services provided in a student-run health care fair

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### Keywords

Health fair, student run health fair, houselessness, health equity, interprofessional education

### Abstract

#### Background

The Health Care Equity Fair (HCEF) began in 2009 as a health screening fair organized by OHSU students across interprofessional programs to provide resources for Oregonians without health insurance. As the number of unhoused individuals in Oregon continues to grow, HCEF serves as a crucial resource for individuals seeking medical care in a system without larger structural solutions. Free community health fairs like HCEF allow individuals facing barriers to access health services, preventive services, and address unmet healthcare needs. Students planning HCEF raised money, partnered with community organizations, and volunteered in different patient supporting roles. This study seeks to evaluate the net value of the funds raised, goods donated, services provided, and hours volunteered by students and community partners during the fair.

#### Results / Discussion

Quantitative and qualitative data was collected through surveys shared with community partners and student volunteers. 58 students from across OHSU's medical, dental, physician assistant, nursing, and pharmacy schools served on committees that helped plan the fair and 158 students volunteered at the fair. \$15,725 was raised via grants and donations. These funds were spent on operational costs such as venue, medical supplies, hot lunch, and goods distributed to participants which included food, water, shelter, hygiene and other supplies. 28 community organizations attended the fair and brought 117 volunteers including physicians, dentists, nurses, chiropractors, and other professionals. An estimated \$23,760 value in goods and services was provided by these community partners, including primary care visits, vision screenings, skin checks, wound and foot care, dental care, showers, osteopathic manipulations, chiropractic services,

acupuncture, OHP enrollment, safe use supplies, and other resources. One participant wrote: “I think [this event] is potentially lifesaving and I’m really thankful for everyone involved.”