OHIO EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTER

Annual Report

2023

OHIO EDUCATION
RESEARCH CENTER
Making Research Work For Education

CHRR AT
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Organizational Background

The OERC experienced significant growth and change in 2023. Building on our 10-year anniversary in 2022, the center solidified the Ohio Longitudinal Data Archive, embarked on several new and exciting projects with agency partners, and received funding from the National Science Foundation for an innovative effort to model employment in AI and EV sectors with the Department of Economics at OSU, the University of Michigan and the Social Science Research Council.

The Ohio Longitudinal Data Archive emerged in 2008 after funding from the Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) from the US Department of Labor and the Race to the Top (RttT) fund from the US Department of Education. Since then, the OLDA has become the premier site for longitudinal research on Ohio. In collaboration with our State of Ohio partners, we support approved research projects on a wide array of topics, including K12 Education, higher education, employment, housing, and disability services. While projects are proposed by individual investigators and State Agencies, we have developed special expertise in some key areas. For example, the OLDA is used to enable the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) to understand the employment and post- secondary outcomes for high school students after they graduate or leave school. The OLDA is also one way researchers can access and learn about the barriers to employment for individuals supported by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA).

OHIO EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTER

Year in Review

During 2023, the OERC supported a wide range of researchers and agency supported research. To illustrate our work, several specific projects are highlighted below for this fiscal year.

First, for the OHFA, we provided reports on the Homeowner Assistance Fund, which required studying the employment outcomes of individuals supported by funds during the pandemic used for mortgage, utility or other housing related costs.

Second, for the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) we studied outcomes of the Employment First funding shared by both agencies, using data provided by the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS).

Third, for the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), we delivered a research brief describing the outcomes of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Study, which examined the employment and educational outcomes of Choose Ohio First Scholarship recipients in recent years.

The 2023 year also saw some significant sponsored work on longer term efforts with two agencies, the ODEW and ODJFS. With the ODEW, the State has sponsored work on the Positive Outliers project, a site-based attempt to identify schools that are achieving in specific areas above and beyond the levels expected based on data and prior evidence. This effort led to some significant knowledge about effective schools for Ohio. A second project is the UI Equity Study, supported by ODJFS, and documenting ways that Unemployment Insurance programs have been impacted by increasing diversity of the clients in unemployment services.

With support from the RESEA (Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment) under ODJFS, we are conducting a large-scale evaluation of participation in unemployment services. This evaluation is based on a randomized controlled trial, where individuals are assigned to receive RESEA with some additional program features and others are kept in a traditional program model.

Importantly, in 2023 we began a new program of work with the ODJFS in "Data Science Support." This contract is an arrangement between The Ohio State University and the agency to support critical operational work requiring data science services and research support. It is intended to support on-demand work with the agency to facilitate decision-making. Two programs are directly supported by this effort, work with ODJFS and the Department of Children and Youth on early childhood professional development and work with the ODJFS on the Adult Protective Services program.

Many of our projects continued from 2022.

- The GEAR UP Evaluation was funded for another 5-year effort (2023-2028) by the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

- The Democratizing Our Data program continues with our partners from the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS) with support from the Coleridge Initiative.

Our Team

Joshua Hawley, Ed.D., Harvard, M.A., B.A. UW Madison

Director

Erin Joyce, M.A. U Notre Dame, B.A. Loyola University Maryland

OERC and OLDA Operations Director

Julie Maurer, Ph. D., M.A. OSU, B.S. UC Irvine

Lead Research Manager

Seong Ji Jeong, Ph. D., M.A. Seoul National University, B.A. Sungkonghoe University

Postdoctoral Scholar

Jessica Collura, Ph. D., M.S. UW Madison, B.A. Miami University

Senior Research Associate

Ceanna Burnheimer, B.A. OSU

Research Associate

Sean Quigley, B.S. OSU

Data Governance Manager

Lisa Neilson, Ph. D., M.A. OSU,. MSc, BASc, University of Guelph

CHRR Research Scientist

Ryan Knighton, B.S. OSU, A.A.S. COTC

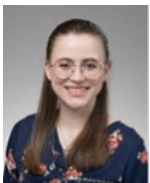Senior Systems Developer/ Engineer

Tian Lou, Ph. D., M.A. UCONN, B.A. Nankai University

CHRR Research Scientist

Brian Stamper, M.A., B.S., B.A. OSU

CHRR Senior Data Scientist

Caroline Barto, B.S. OSU

CHRR Data Scientist

Mark Oleson, B.S. OSU

CHRR Data Scientist

Sungjin Lee, Ph. D. University of Missouri

Postdoctoral Scholar

For more information about our team visit: **https://www.oerc.osu.edu/staff**

PUBLIC SECTOR DATA SCIENCE INTERNS

Cordelia Van der Veer, Bachelor of Public Policy Analysis Student

Cordelia worked with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) to analyze apprenticeship data and match OOD participants to potential programs.

Zaida Jenkins, Master of Public Administration Student

Zaida worked with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to analyze data on their Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program (CCEMP) focused on enrollment trends and participant demographics.

Elizabeth Yirava, Bachelor of Statistics and Public Policy Analysis

Elizabeth worked with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to create maps based on Ohio Department of Education data to assist with the allocation of housing tax credits.

About Us

OERC BY THE NUMBERS

A timeline of when individuals joined OSU.

1995 (Brian)	2000 (Josh)	2012 (Lisa, Julie)	2013 (Ryan)	2016 (Sean, Erin)	2017 (Tian)	2021 (Seong Ji, Ceanna)	2022 (Jess, Mark, Caroline)	2023 (Sungjin)

NEW STAFF, PROMOTIONS AND WORK ANNIVERSARIES

The OERC welcomed two new staff in 2023; Dr. Lee Sungjin and Mr. Sean Quigley. You can learn more about them on the OERC staff website.

Several staff members had significant anniversaries. Dr. Julie Maurer completed 10 years of service in February 2023, while Dr. Tian Lou achieved 5 years. Dr. Lou began as a post-doctoral researcher and was promoted to Research Scientist. During 2023, Dr. Julie Maurer was promoted to Senior Researcher.

For more information about our team visit: **https://www.oerc.osu.edu/staff**

Our Impact

GRANTS AWARDED

For financial support from our sponsors, we acknowledge the following:

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

- **Ohio RESEA Evaluation** $474,533.00
- **PI:** Tian Lou, Josh Hawley

- **JFS Ohio Adult Protective Services (APS)** $365,000.00 (total of $849,000.00)
- **PI:** Kenneth Steinman, Josh Hawley

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce

- **Research and Evidence-based Policy & Practice Support** $633,892.00
- **PI:** Erin Joyce, Ann O'Connell, Josh Hawley

- **Ohio Alternative Attendance Study** $277,788.00
- **PI:** Jessica Collura, Josh Hawley, Erin Joyce

The OLDA Partnership Agencies (Job and Family Services, Education and Workforce, Higher Education, Developmental Disabilities, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Ohio Housing Finance Agency)

- **Ohio Longitudinal Data Archive Partnership FY2024-FY2025** $1,767,472.00
- **PI:** Josh Hawley, Lisa Neilson, Erin Joyce

National Science Foundation

- **Collaborative Research: Industries of Ideas: A prototype system for measuring the effects of TIP investments on firms and jobs** $154,459 (total funding $617,449)
- **PI:** Bruce Weinberg, Josh Hawley

The Ohio Department of Higher Education

- **CARES Act - Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)** $25,829
- **PI:** Julie Maurer

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency

- **OHFA Longitudinal Data Archive Partnership FY 2023** $80,200.00
- **PI:** Josh Hawley

- **OHFA Longitudinal Data Archive Partnership FY2024 / FY2025** $41,800.00
- **PI:** Josh Hawley

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

- **DODD Employment Evaluation** $119,982.00
- **PI:** Lisa Neilson

Coleridge Initiative

- **Democratizing our Data/Postsecondary Dashboards** $50,000.00
- **PI:** Josh Hawley

Ohio Manufacturers Association

- **5G - Good Jobs Challenge** $179,400.00
- **PI:** Julie Maurer

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

UI Equity

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a surge in Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims, highlighting the pressing need to understand the equity and efficiency of the UI system. The UI Equity project specifically delves into the UI system in Ohio and tracks over 3.4 million claimants between 2017 and 2022. We examined how the UI determination process (monetary and nonmonetary determination), UI benefits approval rate, and timeliness of the first UI benefit payment differ for claimants with different attributes, including those from different demographic groups, education levels, and prior job history.

One Goal

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) partnered with the Ohio Education Research Center (OERC) and CHRR at The Ohio State University to establish benchmarks and gain insights into the strategic "One Goal" identified by Ohio's State Board of Education:

"Ohio will increase annually the percentage of its high school graduates who, one year after graduation, are:
- *Enrolled and succeeding in a post-high school learning experience, including an adult career-technical education program, an apprenticeship and/or a two-year or four-year college program;*
- *Serving in a military branch;*
- *Earning a living wage; or*
- *Engaged in a meaningful, self-sustaining vocation."*

This study examined the outcomes of on-time high school graduates from Ohio public school districts and community schools between 2012 and 2019, utilizing public K-12, higher education, and workforce data available through the Ohio Longitudinal Data Archive (OLDA). The initial analyses focused on higher education enrollment, in-state employment, and earnings during the first year after high school graduation. We also explored how these outcomes vary by gender, racial groups, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) status, disability status, and economic disadvantage. In a subsequent analysis, we employed a mixed-effects model to identify school districts that perform better than expected in terms of postsecondary education and labor market outcomes and to determine which student-level and school district-level factors are associated with better-than-expected performance.

Attendance Project

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) is partnering with the Ohio Education Research Center (OERC) to conduct a statewide study on school attendance. This study seeks to learn more about patterns and outcomes related to student attendance in Ohio, as well as local school district attendance policies. This mixed methods study seeks to answer four broad overarching research questions: 1) What patterns exist regarding student attendance in Ohio? 2) How is student attendance related to academic achievement? 3) How are excused and unexcused absences operationalized and tracked? 4) How do districts use data to identify students in need of interventions?; What strategies are districts using?

Three primary data sources will be used: EMIS records from 2016 - 2023; local attendance records from select school districts; and a statewide survey. Analysis of EMIS records will be conducted to identify statewide patterns of student attendance and examine the relationship between student attendance and academic achievement. Local attendance records from select school districts will be analyzed to further understand patterns of student attendance. The statewide survey will collect data on how Ohio school districts and community schools operationalize and track excused and unexcused absences, and how districts use data to identify students in need of interventions. The findings will be synthesized and presented in guidance documents for ODEW and Ohio educators.

Presentations

Hawley, J. (2023). A labor shortage stands in the way of the clean energy transition
https://www.marketplace.org/2023/03/30/a-labor-shortage-stands-in-the-way-of-the-clean-energy-transition/

Hawley, J. (2023, December 12, 13, 14). *Measuring Labour Market Transitions in Thailand* [Research presentations]. Thailand Development Research Institute, University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, and The International Labour Organization (Bangkok)**.**

Jeong, S. J., Hawley, J. (2023, April 13-16). *Exploring the Relationship Between CTE Interventions and Employment: Does Vocational Education Lead to Decent Work?* [Paper presentation]. 2023 American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, US.

Jeong, S. J., Hawley, J. (2023, February 18-22). *Pursuing Successful Transition to Decent Work of Vocational High School Graduates in Korea: Comparing Specialized versus Meister Schools* [Paper presentation]. 67th Annual Meeting of the Comparative and International Education Society. Washington D.C., US.

Jeong, S. J. (2023, August 2-5). *Unraveling the Effective Teaching and Learning Strategies for Korean College Students in STEM Majors in the COVID-19 Era* [Paper presentation]. 2023 US-Korea Conference on Science, Technology and Entrepreneurship. Dallas, US.

Jeong, S.J. (2023, November 13). *Career Trajectories, Gradual Retirement, and Late-Life Financial Security of Aged Adults* [Research presentation]. John Glenn College Colloquium Series, The John Glenn College of Public Affairs, The Ohio State University.

Joyce, E. (2023, September 13-14). *K-12 and Workforce Data: Partnerships for Student Success* [Conference session], National Association of State Workforce Agencies 2023 Summit, Los Angeles, CA.

Joyce, E. (2023, October 23-24). *Last Mile Linkages Workshop: Workforce and Education Connections in IDS* [Conference session] CCSSO-EIMAC Collaborative, Jacksonville FL.

Neilson. L. (2023, January 17). CHRR Methodology Workshop [Research presentation]. Institute for Population Research Seminar Series, The Ohio State University.

Neilson. L. (2023, April 14). *Career Resource Navigator.* [Data tool demonstration]. Ohio Workforce Association OMJ Center Operators Solutions Group.

Neilson. L. (2023, April 20). *OLDA Overview* [Meeting presentation]. Administrative Data Working Group, The Ohio State University.

Neilson. L. (2023, June 6). OLDA Innovate Ohio Platform Overview [Meeting presentation]. Administrative Data Working, The Ohio State University.
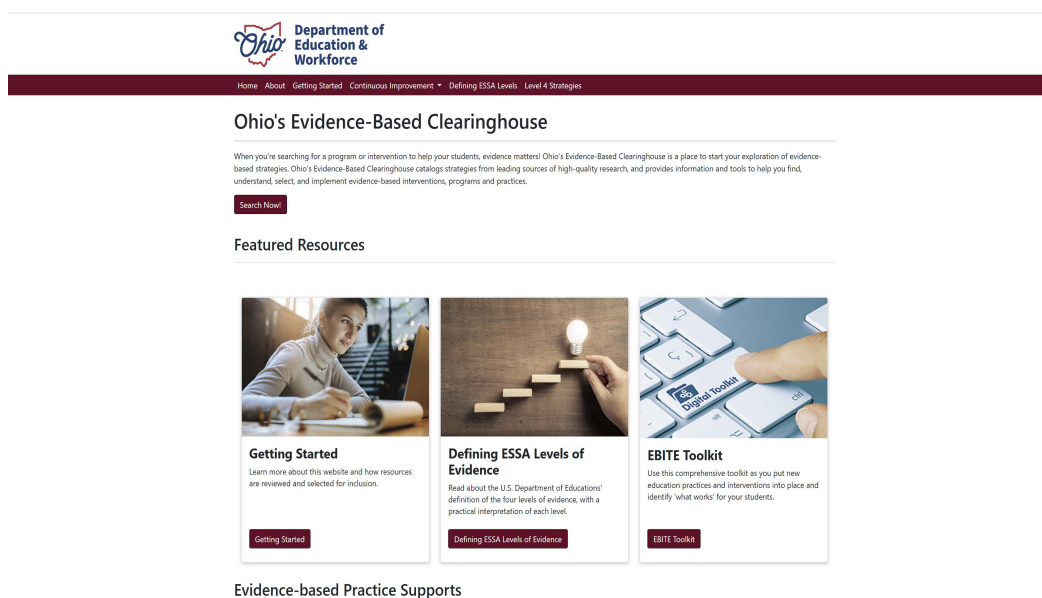
Our Work

WEBSITES

Ohio's Evidence Based Clearinghouse https://essa.chrr.ohio-state.edu/

The Evidence Based Clearinghouse connects users to evidence-based education interventions and guides users on how to select these interventions to improve their school system.

Ohio's Evidence-Based Clearinghouse (OEBC) is new and improved for the 2024-2025 school year. The new site reflects a comprehensive update informed by educators and experts from Ohio schools, districts, educational service centers, higher education institutions, and ODEW.

New site updates include:

- A sleek new tile interface on the homepage for faster navigation.
- The EBITE toolkit of comprehensive guides on the process for selecting, implementing, and reflecting on evidence-based interventions.
- New strategy display cards with more contextual information to help users make informed decisions when selecting interventions.
- Flags for programs listed on the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's (ODEW) approved core curriculum and instructional materials list or ODEW's evidence-based reading intervention programs list.
- Improved filtering options to help users select the right strategy for their student population.
- Content-specific resource guides for Literacy and Safe and Healthy Schools.

CODE

Lou, T., Ren, X., & Haensch, A.-C. (2023). Data Exploration using Syntucky Postsecondary to Workforce [unpublished synthetic data]. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10257347.

Lou, T., Ren, X., & Haensch, A.-C. (2023). Data Linkage using Syntucky Postsecondary to workforce [unpublished synthetic data]. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10263021.

Lou, T., Ren, X., & Haensch, A.-C. (2023). Constructing Job Quality Measurements using Syntucky Postsecondary to Workforce [unpublished synthetic data]. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10256974.

Lou, T., Ren, X., & Haensch, A.-C. (2023). Data visualization using Syntucky Postsecondary to Workforce [unpublished synthetic data]. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10257134.

Lou, T., & Ren, X. (2023). Machine Learning Data Preparation using Syntucky Postsecondary to Workforce [unpublished synthetic data]. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.102572777.

Lou, T., & Ren, X. (2023). Job Quality Machine Learning Model Deployment and Evaluation using Syntucky Postsecondary to Workforce [unpublished synthetic data]. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281zenodo.10257464.

PUBLICATIONS

Jeong, S. J., Choi, S. J., & Hawley, J. (2023). Mid-Aged Adults' Career Trajectories and Late-Life Financial Security: A Sequence Analysis Approach. Longitudinal and Life Course Studies. 14 (4), 566-591 https://doi.org/10.1332/175795921X16843342371110

Lou, T., & Song, T. (2023). Ethnic Segregation and Immigrants' Labor Market Outcomes: The Role of Education. IZA Journal of Labor Economics, 12(1).