

# **Charles McKeen (Mick) Cowles**

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## **Summary**

Nationally recognized expert on government healthcare databases with personal contacts within federal and state government agencies that facilitate access to both public and non-public use files. More than thirty years of research experience extracting usable information from large government databases for industry and policy makers. Known for the ability to creatively combine and array large databases, perform sophisticated analyses of data, and express the results to non-technical audiences.

## **Professional Experience**

### **COWLES RESEARCH GROUP**

President

Anacortes, Washington

1995 - present

Founded a consulting firm specializing in health services research.

- Create databases and reports that provide clients with critical information for strategic planning, academic research, litigation support, and quality improvement.
- Access difficult-to-obtain databases, including non-public use files of CMS, such as the nursing home enforcement action and complaint survey databases.
- Produce the *Nursing Home Statistical Yearbooks* on an annual basis.
- Routinely convert Medicare Cost Report Masterfiles to user-friendly formats.

### **MUSE AND ASSOCIATES**

Director of Health Data Systems

Washington, DC

2002-2005

Conducted original research on Medicare and Medicaid utilization and expenditures, some of which were proprietary and confidential in nature. Authored studies included:

- “Nursing Home Staffing Changes in Response to October 1, 2003 Rate Correction,” also known as “The Grassley Study.”
- “Lifetime Benefit Analysis of Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program.”
- An audit of the data analysis methodology for cost analysis performed by the National Association of Home Care.

**HEALTH DATA ASSOCIATES, INC.**

President

Tacoma, Washington

1992-1994

Founded a consulting firm specializing in health care databases. Published *Nursing Home Yearbook: 1994*, a statistical yearbook on the nursing home industry.

**AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION**

Senior Manager, Research and Data Programs

Washington, D.C.

1991 - 1992

Established an in-house research capability for the largest nursing home association in the United States.

- Created a clearinghouse of long-term care data, information, and research for the public, the research community, and the long-term care industry.
- Conceived, designed, and completed a statistical study testing the interdependence of nursing home deficiency citation rates, providing for the first time empirical hypothesis testing of surveyor consistency, used in formal comments to the Health Care Financing Administration's proposed regulations.
- Conducted a national study of nursing home survey activities in conjunction with George Washington University School of Medicine faculty.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION (HCFA)**

**OFFICE OF RESEARCH**

Economist

Baltimore, Maryland

1987 - 1991

Conducted original health services research using large government databases.

- Combined files used to administer the Hospital Prospective Payment System to model the impact of financial and compliance audits on Medicare Cost Report variables.
- Supervised internal and external research relating to expenditure targets and volume performance standards for Medicare physician payment reform.
- Acted as a Project Officer and a Grant Review Panel Chairperson.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**  
**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
Economist

Washington, D.C.  
1979 - 1987

Conducted original research for public utility rate setting purposes.

- Served as an expert witness in administrative law court.
- Created and maintained a large accounting database of actuarial capital property records of federally regulated energy companies.

## Education

M.S., Economics, University of Vermont, 1980.

B.A., Economics, Ripon College, 1975.

## Publications and Presentations

*Nursing Home Statistical Yearbook: 1995 through 2013.*

"Impact of Medical Director Certification on Nursing Home Quality," *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*, July 2009, p. 365. With Fredrick N. Rowland, Craig Dickstein, and Paul R. Katz.

"Getting the Most Out of OSCAR," presentation at the 1999 Long Term Care and the Law Conference of the American Health Lawyers Association in San Antonio, Texas.

"Dependency of LTC Residents Increases" *LTC News and Comment*, March, 1996.

"Quality of Care and Nursing Staff in Nursing Homes," *Nursing Staff in Hospitals and Nursing Homes*, Institute of Medicine, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., 1996, pp.426-452. With Jean Johnson and Samuel J. Simmens.

"How Many Nurses are Enough," A presentation made at the American Health Care Association's 46th annual convention, October 1995 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

"Tracking the Supply of Nursing Home Beds," *Nursing Home Yearbook: 1994*, p.17, With Laurence G. Branch and Jean Johnson.

"How Many Nursing Home Residents Pay Medicaid Rate?" *LTC News and Comment*, June, 1992.

"Projection of Supply of Nursing Home Beds," *LTC News and Comment*, February, 1992.

## **Publications and Presentations (continued)**

"Review Effect on Cost Reports," *Health Care Financing Review*, Spring 1991, p.21.

"Financing and Delivering Health Care for the Elderly," *The Social Protection of the Frail Elderly*, International Social Security Association, Geneva, 1990, with George Schieber and Judith Sangl.

"Medicare Volume Performance Standard Rates of Increase for Physician Services Differentiated by Geographic Area, Specialty or Group of Specialties, and Type of Service," *Report to Congress*, released to Congress on December 27, 1990.

"Medicare Physicians: Who They Are and How They Practice," paper presented at the 1990 American Public Health Association convention in New York City

## **Testimony**

Harold M. Bondy, M.D. v. Govindbahal Patel, M.D. and Arbors at Fairmont Nursing Center  
Civil Action No. 08-C-175  
Circuit Court of Marion County, West Virginia

James Brogdon, et al., v. National Healthcare Corporation  
Civil Action File No. 4:99-CV-313-HLM  
United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia Rome Division

Harry L. Scott v. Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, Inc., et al.  
Civil Action No. 98-C-15  
Circuit Court of Pendleton County, West Virginia

Vencor Hospitals Limited Partnership v. Secretary of Defense of the United States  
Case No. 1:98CV1424 (SSH)  
United States District Court for the District of Columbia

Oregon Health Care Association et al v. State of Oregon  
Civil No. 93-1598-JO  
United States District Court for the District of Oregon

Oregon Association of Homes for the Aged v. State of Oregon  
Civil No. 90-6494-JO  
United States District Court for the District of Oregon