

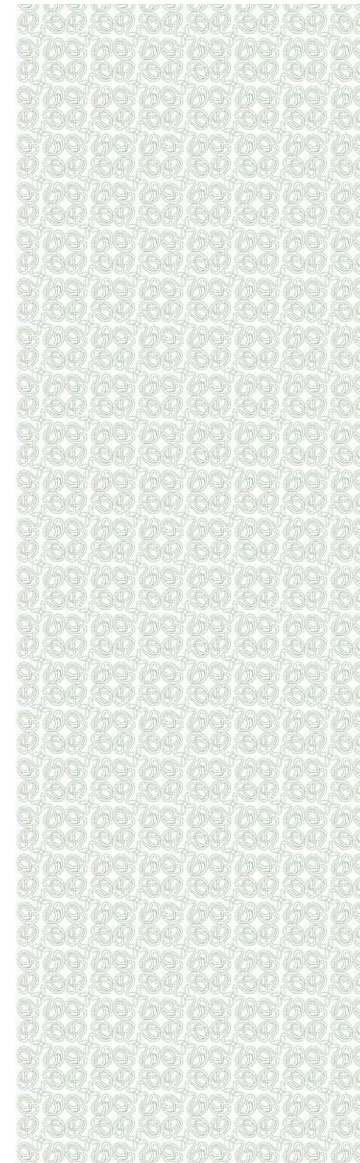
# Primary Care and Public Health Exploring Integration to Improve Population Health

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# Committee's Charge

- Identify the best examples of effective primary care and public health integration and the factors that promote and sustain these efforts.
- Examine ways by which HRSA and CDC can use provisions in the ACA to promote the integration of primary care and public health.
- Discuss how HRSA-supported primary care systems and state and local public health departments can effectively integrate and coordinate around specific topics.



# What Do We Mean By Integration?

Variables Used by the Committee:

**Level  
Action**

**Partners  
Degree**

Degree of Integration:



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# Why Integrate?

- A wide array of public and private actors across the nation contribute to the health of populations
- Achieving substantial and lasting improvements in population health will require a concerted effort aligned under a common goal
- Integration of primary care and public health could enhance the capacity of both sectors to carry out their missions and link with other stakeholders to catalyze a collaborative, intersectoral movement toward improved population health

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## Why Now?

- The dramatic rise in health care costs has led many stakeholders to embrace innovative ideas
- Health research continues to clarify the importance of social and environmental determinants of health and the impact of primary prevention
- An unprecedented wealth of health data is providing new opportunities to understand and address community-level health concerns
- The ACA presents an overarching opportunity to change the way health is approached in the United States

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# Case Studies of Integration

Durham, NC	San Francisco, CA	New York, NY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Part of CCNC, a statewide network to coordinate and improve care</li><li>▪ Individual networks can tailor services to community needs</li><li>▪ A range of primary care, public health, and community participants</li><li>▪ Collaborative financing structure</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Healthy SF is an intersectoral partnership to improve access to care</li><li>▪ Health Improvement Partnerships bring together a diverse group of community leaders to find innovative solutions to health issues</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Promotes the use of electronic health records to improve the quality of primary care and generate public health data</li><li>▪ Engages with local communities to promote health education, access to care, and use of clinical preventive services</li></ul>

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# Principles for Successful Integration

- A shared goal of **population health improvement**;
- **Community engagement** in defining and addressing population health needs;
- **Aligned leadership** that
  - bridges disciplines, programs, and jurisdictions to reduce fragmentation and foster continuity,
  - clarifies roles and ensures accountability,
  - develops and supports appropriate incentives, and
  - has the capacity to manage change;
- **Sustainability**, key to which is the establishment of a shared infrastructure and building for enduring value and impact; and
- The sharing and collaborative use of **data and analysis**.





# Opportunities Presented by the ACA

- Community Transformation Grants
- Community Health Needs Assessments
- Medicaid Preventive Services
- Community Health Centers
- National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council and the National Prevention Strategy
- CMS Innovation Center
- Accountable Care Organizations
- Patient-Centered Medical Homes
- Primary Care Extension Program
- National Health Service Corps
- Teaching Health Centers

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## Findings and Conclusions

- The principles for integration represent an aspirational yet actionable framework for accelerating progress toward achieving the nation's population health objectives
- The committee finds that in its current state, the infrastructure for both primary care and public health is inadequate to achieve the nation's population health objectives.
- Current patterns of health policy focus and investment lack the alignment necessary to broadly leverage the assets and potential of primary care and public health.
- No single best solution for achieving integration can be prescribed. Community-level application of the framework represented by the principles for integration will require substantial local adaptation and the development of specific structures, relationships, and processes.

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## Recommendations

- **Build on and expand existing CDC and HRSA collaborations**
- **Develop common research and learning networks**
- **Develop the workforce needed to support the integration of primary care and public health**
- **Establish integration as a priority and link throughout HHS**
- **HHS should advocate for cross Department Coordination**

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## Concluding Remarks

The path to population health improvement will involve significant investment in the creation of linkages and alignment across many sectors. This report set out to highlight opportunities for the first steps toward this goal among stakeholders in two of the most critical fields in the realm of community health.

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