

Population Health ¹Working Group Proposed Charter

The Population Health Working Group will leverage the opportunities available through the State Innovation Model project to enhance population health improvement efforts in Vermont and to achieve the health priorities in the State Health Improvement Plan. The Group will be a resource for the other SIM working groups and advise them on ways that their work can incorporate population health principles and contribute toward improving the population health of Vermonters. It will be proactive in identifying opportunities to create both the infrastructure to support improvements in population health and sustainable approaches to rewarding improvements. The Group will review products from the other working groups, participate in formative discussions with them, and develop recommendations for refinements to models, measures, and other elements that contribute to improved population health outcomes.

Recommendations will focus on the following:

- Consensus on population health measures to be used in tracking the outcomes of the Vermont Health Care Improvement Innovation Project (formerly known as SIM) and to be incorporated in the new payment models.
- How to pay for population health through modifications to proposed health reform payment mechanisms, and identification of promising new financing vehicles that promote financial investment in population health interventions.
- Identifying and disseminating current initiatives in Vermont and nationally where clinical and population health are coming together. Identifying opportunities to enhance new health delivery system models, such as the Blueprint for Health and Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), to improve population health by better integration of clinical services, public health programs and community based services at both the practice and the community levels.

¹ Working Definition of Population Health, Institute Of Medicine, Roundtable on Population Health Improvement
<http://www.iom.edu/Activities/PublicHealth/PopulationHealthImprovementRT.aspx>

Realizing that there is not uniform agreement on the definition of population health, the IOM Roundtable will use the following definition to guide its initial conversations.

Population Health is "the health outcomes of a group of individuals, including the distribution of such outcomes within the group" (Kindig and Stoddart, 2003). While not a part of the definition itself, it is understood that such population health outcomes are the product of multiple determinants of health, including medical care, public health, genetics, behaviors, social factors, and environmental factors.

For additional details about defining population health, see the *Working Definition* [here](#).
Kindig, D., and G. Stoddart. 2003. What is population health? *American Journal of Public Health* 93(3):380-383.