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**SIMPLE MEASURES SHOW POTENTIAL FOR WELL-BEING AND EQUITY IN THE US**

*100 Million Healthier Lives Releases New Measures to Improve Health, Well-Being, and Equity*

*Supported by the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics*

**Boston, MA — June 3, 2019** — June is marked by high school graduations across the US, and as students and families celebrate, researchers from public health and other fields are taking note of differences in graduation rates across communities. Whether someone graduates from high school in the US is a strong predictor of one’s future health and life expectancy, as well as their community’s overall wealth and health. That’s why high school graduation rates are among nine core measures included in the newly developed [\*Well-Being in the Nation \(WIN\) Measurement Framework: Measures for Improving Health, Well-Being, and Equity Across Sectors\*](#) released today by [100 Million Healthier Lives](#), convened by the [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#) (IHI), and in partnership with the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS), an advisory committee to the US Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The WIN measures can be used by anyone — from a federal agency to a health care organization to a community coalition — to guide policy, compare results across initiatives, and drive improvement. In addition to high school graduation rates, measures like child poverty rates, community walkability, and how people feel about their own lives and their future all turn out to be important in creating health and well-being over the course of their lives.

“The degree to which people engage in civic life, good jobs are available, housing is affordable, the environment enables people to connect with one another, and the culture of the community is inclusive — all of these relate to whether a community might thrive,” said **Somava Saha, MD, MS**, Vice President, IHI, and Executive Lead for the 100 Million Healthier Lives initiative. “The WIN report recognizes that these elements — the well-being of people and the well-being of places — are interconnected and relate to the systems and conditions that perpetuate health inequities.”

*A Collaborative Effort to Identify Measures*

The WIN framework is the culmination of work begun in 2015 by NCVHS to identify key factors that impact population and community health and well-being. After NCVHS arrived at initial findings, they invited 100 Million Healthier Lives to expand the work and to test a preliminary set of measures with others.

100 Million Healthier Lives brought together more than 100 stakeholders, including organizations and agencies working at both the state and federal levels on health, housing, education, transportation, and the environment. The collective insights and resources from this collaboration are evident in the final WIN framework, which draws from existing resources, such as *US News & World Report’s* Healthiest Communities, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, and City Health Dashboard. Recommendations

from across the sectors and communities represented also helped everyone see certain indicators of health and well-being in a new light.

“As a whole, these measures help us to shift our understanding of what creates health and equity and what we should begin to track in terms of our nation’s well-being,” noted Saha. “While traditional health care performance measures can be useful, they are actually only a small part of the picture of what is needed to improve the health and well-being of the nation. The WIN measures help us see the whole picture — including the social conditions that people and places need to thrive. These measures are simple, powerful, practical and represent areas where effort can lead to substantial improvement in the health and well-being of people and places, with a focus on those who need it the most.”

Together, the stakeholder groups identified 500+ measures, which were narrowed down to nine core measures mentioned above, as well as 54 leading indicators across 12 domains and 30 subdomains, such as food, health, housing, education, and transportation. In addition, the groups identified a number of innovative measures that could over time help organizations and communities better understand the nontraditional factors influencing health and well-being, such as perception of everyday discrimination and school absences.

### *The Framework in Action*

Dozens of local and national agencies, communities, and states that worked on the measures have already begun to put them to use, including the American Heart Association, the Delaware Substance Abuse and Mental Health Agency, the National Council on Aging, *US News & World Report*, and the Well Being Trust. These organizations and others have formed a Well-Being in the Nation Measurement Cooperative to continue to learn from one another.

“The NCVHS Measurement Framework for Community Health and Well-Being created the foundational structure intended to be adapted, improved, and become a tool to help communities jumpstart their data collection efforts,” wrote Bill Stead, Chairman, NCVHS. “We thank 100 Million Healthier Lives for joining us in a public-private partnership and taking the next steps to reach communities far beyond our reach and capacity. Their ability to develop a process for input, convene diverse stakeholders, and develop a community desired product is beyond what we had hoped for in our partnership. NCVHS wholeheartedly supports these efforts.”

### **About 100 Million Healthier Lives**

[100 Million Healthier Lives](#), convened by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, is an unprecedented collaboration of change agents across sectors who are creating hope and proof that real change is possible in the lives of real people and places who need it the most. Together, they are fundamentally changing the way the world thinks and acts to create health, well-being and equity.

### **About the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)**

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) is an independent not-for-profit organization based in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. For more than 25 years, IHI has used improvement science to advance and sustain better outcomes in health and health systems across the world. IHI brings awareness of safety and quality to millions, catalyzes learning and the systematic improvement of care, develops solutions to previously intractable challenges, and mobilizes health systems, communities, regions, and nations to reduce harm and deaths. IHI collaborates with a growing community to spark bold, inventive ways to improve the health of individuals and populations. IHI generates optimism, harvests fresh ideas, and supports anyone, anywhere who wants to profoundly change health and health care for the better. Learn more at [ihi.org](http://ihi.org).

**About the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics**

The [National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics](#) (NCVHS) serves as the statutory [42 U.S.C. 242k(k)] public advisory body to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) for health data, statistics, privacy, and national health information policy and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The Committee advises the HHS Secretary, reports regularly to Congress on HIPAA implementation, and serves as a forum for interaction between HHS and interested private sector groups on a range of health data issues.

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