

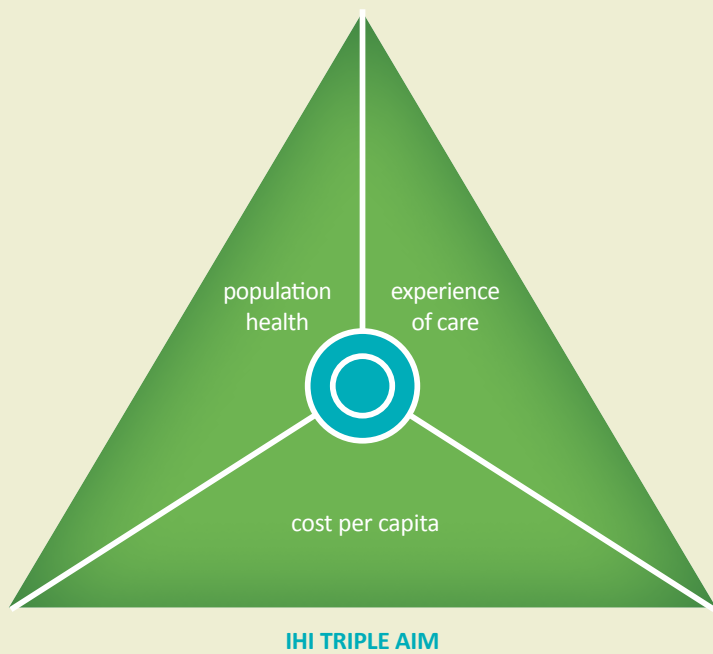
# STATE HEALTH AGENCIES IMPROVING POPULATION HEALTH

Population health is often defined as the health outcomes of a group of individuals, including the distribution of such outcomes within the group, as measured by health status indicators.<sup>1</sup> Population health outcomes are the product of multiple determinants of health including medical care, public health, genetics, behaviors, social factors, and environmental factors and the distribution of disparities in the population.

Improving population health could impact disease prevalence and reduce overall healthcare spending. The Affordable Care Act includes a number of provisions which address the inefficiencies of the healthcare system and the associated costs. State public health agencies play a unique role in improving population health in the context of health system transformation.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Kindig D, Stoddart G. "What is population health?". *American Journal of Public Health*. 2003. 93(3):380-383.

## TWO STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING POPULATION HEALTH



### The Triple Aim

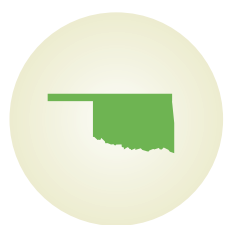
The **Institute for Healthcare Improvement Triple Aim framework** improves the patient experience of care; improves the health of populations; and reduces the per capita cost of healthcare. One example of how states are working to achieve the Triple Aim is through the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Innovation's State Innovation Models (SIM) initiative. Through the SIM initiative, states are designing and implementing strategies that use regulatory and policy levers to transform the healthcare system through payment and delivery reform initiatives which will achieve the Triple Aim.



### The National Prevention Strategy

The **National Prevention Strategy** aims to guide our nation in the most effective and achievable means for improving health and well-being. The strategy promotes a Health in All Policies approach to prevention by integrating recommendations and actions across multiple settings to improve health and save lives.

## STATE EXAMPLES OF POPULATION HEALTH IMPROVEMENT



### Data Sharing

**Oklahoma** has developed a joint strategic plan between the OK Healthcare Authority (Medicaid) and public health, with a focus on establishing a governance structure for shared information technology and data sharing services among its five largest HHS agencies.



### Team-Based Care/Care Coordination

The **North Carolina** Division of Public Health and the North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance (Medicaid) have partnered to lead the creation of a new pregnancy-care model that links pregnant women to essential community resources and support.



### Payment & Delivery Reform

The **Ohio** Department of Health is leading a statewide expansion of the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model of primary care to ensure healthcare is affordable, improve health outcomes, enhance the patient experience, and provide a forum for healthcare stakeholders to work together more effectively.

## CHECKLIST FOR POPULATION HEALTH PLANS

- Conduct a coordinated population health needs assessment to identify goals and objectives.
- Develop a priority setting process and identify evidence-based population health improvement interventions for each goal and objective.
- Identify leaders in population health improvement at the state, regional, and local levels.
- Develop and implement a population health plan.
- Select a set of metrics to monitor and evaluate the population health plan over time.
- Establish a communications plan for reporting progress on improvements in population health.

