

# ASTHO-Million Hearts: Texas Community-Clinical Linkages Project



July 12, 2016

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# ASTHO-Million Hearts: Texas Community-Clinical Linkages Project



The Department of State Health Services was awarded a grant from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) to reduce hypertension across the State with a focus on disparate populations.

- The ASTHO funding supports the Million Hearts goal of preventing 1 million heart attacks and strokes in the United States by the year 2017 through developing and enhancing community clinical linkages and systems of care.
- Quality improvement process to partner across sectors including clinical, community, and public health partners to implement best practices and evidence based policies to create and refine community and clinical linkages.

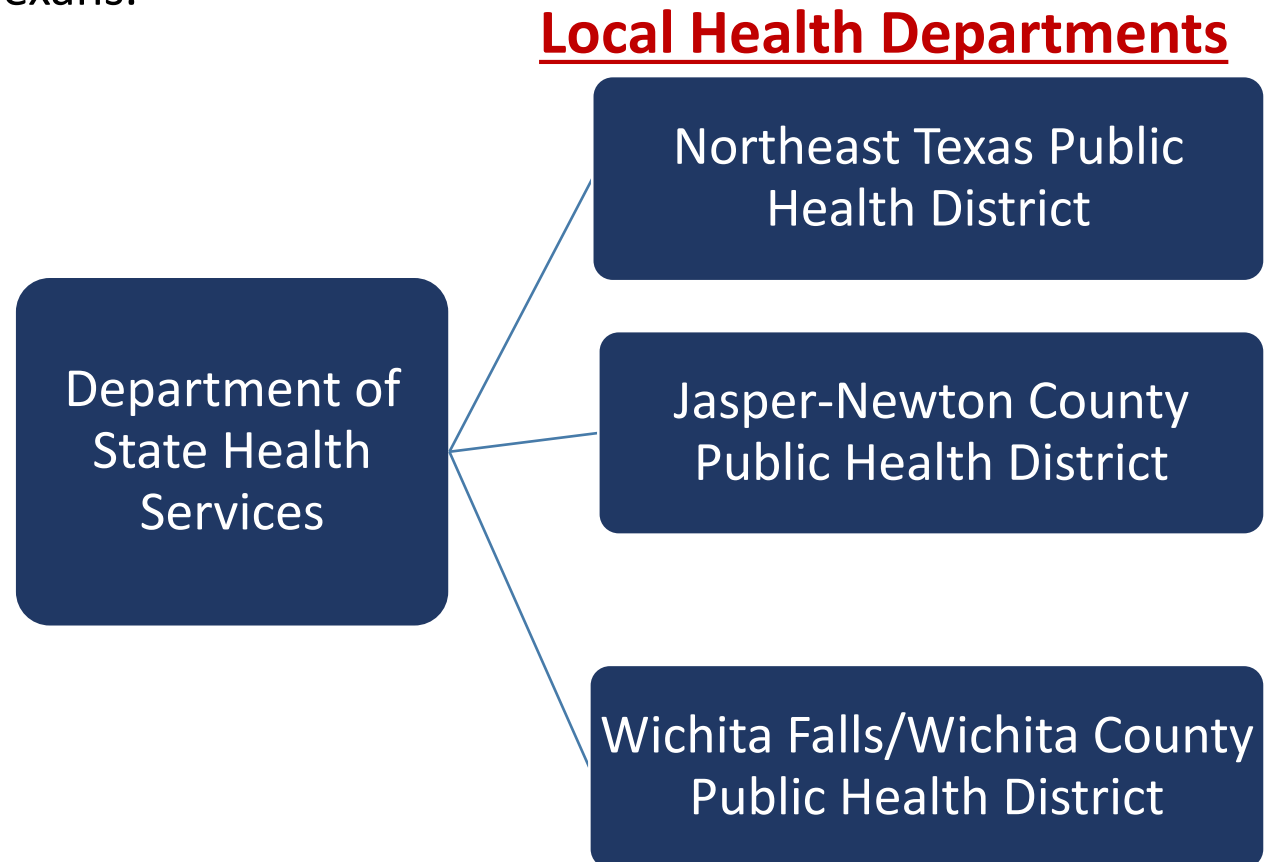
# ASTHO-Million Hearts: Texas Community-Clinical Linkages Project



The Texas Learning Collaborative works across all sectors including payors to develop systems of care to identify, control, and improve blood pressure of Texans.

## State and Regional Partners

- Texas Pharmacy Association
- United Healthcare Community Plan of Texas
- American Heart Association - Southwest Affiliate
- Northeast Regional Extension Center (Health IT)
- TMF Health Quality Institute
- UT Health Tyler



# ASTHO-Million Hearts: Texas Community-Clinical Linkages Project



The ASTHO Million Hearts® - Texas Community Clinical Linkages project is supporting Texans in achieving blood pressure control, with a special focus on North and Northeast Texas through a state-wide learning collaborative.

## **Texas Aim Statement**

By June 30, 2016, the Texas team will work with its stakeholders to increase hypertension control in diagnosed populations and reduce undiagnosed hypertension among targeted high-risk populations, by designing a system that effectively connects and integrates public health, healthcare providers and payors, hospitals, and state and community partners.

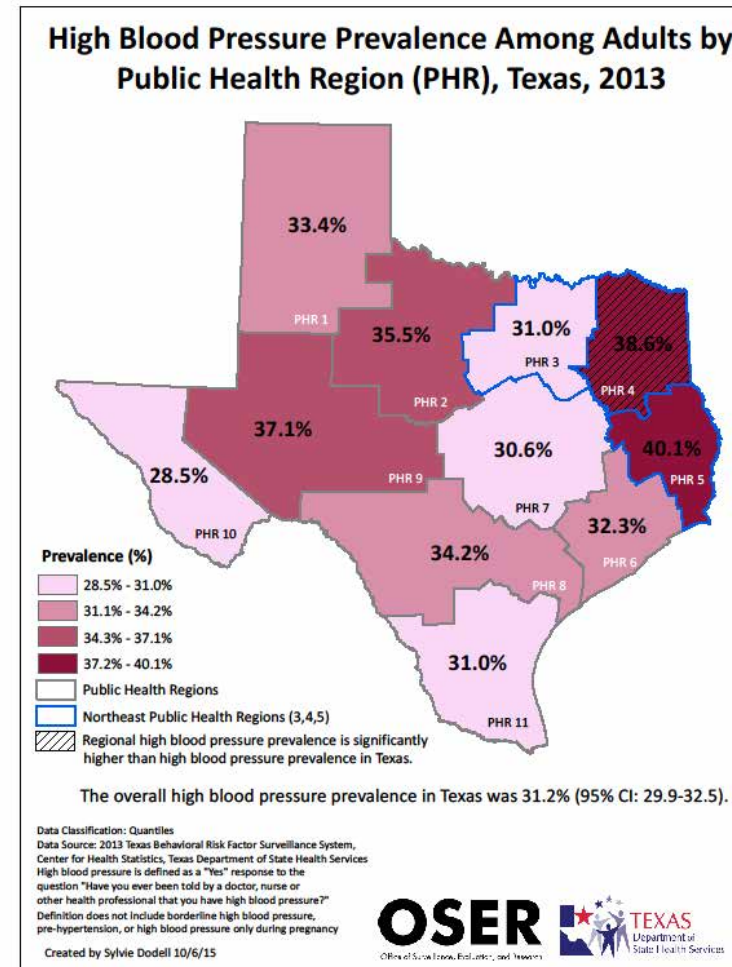


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## Hypertension prevalence among adults in Texas: 31.2%

- PHR 2: 35.5%
  - Wichita County
- PHR 4: 38.6%
  - Smith County (NET Health)
- PHR 5: 40.1%
  - Jasper and Newton Counties



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United Healthcare is working towards connecting members diagnosed with hypertension in Jasper, Newton, and Smith Counties to community resources for achieving blood pressure control.

## PLAN

Identification of UnitedHealthcare members with hypertension in Jasper, Newton, and Smith Counties.

## DO

Research has identified 840 members in Jasper, Newton, and Smith counties with a diagnosis of hypertension between 10/1/2014 and 9/30/2015.

**Jasper - 122 Members   Newton - 54 Members   Smith - 664 Members**

## STUDY

A successful test has produced a substantial volume of members with claims data related to hypertension in 3 counties.



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## Next Step (ACT)

Sharing members demographic information with ASTHO collaborating partners to connect members to community resources for achieving blood pressure control.

## Action Items

- Data Usage Agreements have been sent to 2/3 entities
- Currently trying to assess the easiest way to process this request (vendor vs provider relationship)
- Transferring of PHI to entities external to UHC for this purpose may require multiple levels of input and assessments conducted by UHC





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## **Benefits of sharing data with public health entities and partners**

- Connecting members with hypertension to community resources for achieving blood pressure control.
- Reducing the burden of chronic diseases, such as heart disease and diabetes, for all Texans. Chronic disease is a leading driver of health care costs and accounts for 75 percent of Texas health care expenditures.
- United Healthcare is contributing to population health in Texas and supports DSHS' comprehensive approach of working with community partners to prevent and control chronic disease



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## Discussion and Opportunities

- How can health plans better support patients with hypertension?
- What are some mechanisms to reimburse for non-billable services such as community health workers to support the prevention of chronic conditions?
- Have other health plans shared public health information with public health entities?
- What are other ways health plans can support population health to reduce the burden of chronic diseases?

# Thank You



## Contact Information

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