

Roundtable on Population Health Improvement

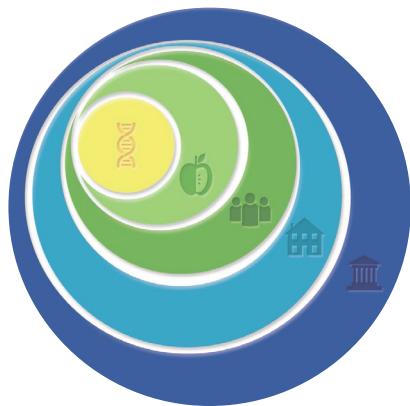
**Board on Population Health and
Public Health Practice**

HEALTH AND MEDICINE DIVISION



2021 Annual Report





In 2021, the pandemic continued to highlight the conditions that affect health and equity, and the roundtable continued to lift up innovative solutions and strategies deployed by communities, practitioners, and leaders from around the U.S.

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Raymond Baxter and Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo

The Roundtable on Population Health Improvement begins its 10th year against a backdrop of evolving threats to population health and the social drivers of health. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to highlight the conditions that undermine health, equity, and well-being and the solutions to some of the high-level challenges facing our society. These include income inequality, lack of opportunity and fair life chances due to structural racism, the unfolding effects of climate change, insufficient pay and protections for many workers, and toxic misinformation and disinformation.

In 2021, the roundtable continued its public events (i.e., workshops) designed to frame issues of importance to leaders, practitioners, and researchers in health and other sectors; explored promising and innovative solutions for and approaches to population health improvement; and facilitated new and generative connections among people and organizations. Although the all-virtual format limited interaction and networking, organizers included virtual small group discussions where appropriate. But the all-virtual format also may have brought new and more diverse audiences to roundtable events: more than 4,200 participants from across the country tuned in to view the 2021 workshop webcasts, and nearly 1000 viewers tuned in to various webinars.

The roundtable's 2021 workshops and ancillary activities linked to the six conditions of influence in population health previously identified as a flexible organizing principle for the roundtable's work: resources, metrics, research, policy, communication, and relationships. The workshops ranged from exploring strategies to build community power to providing a deeper analysis of the

meaning and prerequisites of spatial justice in the service of community health, equity, and well-being. The workshops generally began with historical context as an intentional strategy to illuminate the structural and systemic conditions that shaped each of the topics being discussed and their effects on health and equity. They also include a perspective on narrative and framing to highlight the importance of language, perception, media, and communication in shaping the conditions for health and health equity.

We look ahead to conversations and actions that will shape a healthier and more equitable 2022.

Visit us at <http://www.nas.edu/PopHealthRT>.



Raymond Baxter, Ph.D.

*Trustee, Blue Shield of California
Foundation; Board member,
CDC Foundation*



Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, M.D., Ph.D.

*Vice Dean for Population Health and Health
Equity, and Chair, Department of Epidemiology
and Biostatistics, School of Medicine, University
of California, San Francisco*

Looking Back

Roundtable Activities in 2021



Workshops

The roundtable held five virtual workshops in 2021. These workshops continued the roundtable's exploration of the social drivers of health (e.g., economics, place) and of past and persisting racially unjust systems and structures that shape those drivers. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to challenge the health and social sectors and threaten the health and well-being of historically marginalized communities.

All workshops were webcast live; videos, slide presentations, and other resources for these events are archived at <http://www.nas.edu/PopHealthRT>.

Community-Led Initiatives for Population Health Improvement

Past roundtable workshops have explored the roles and the potential of communities and their partners to improve the conditions for health and equity. The workshop in January 2021 highlighted strategies to build the power of communities themselves and featured practitioners, scholars, and other experts. Speakers highlighted the need to value relationships as much as technical solutions; discussed power as a driver, definer, and shaper of the social determinants of health; and explored the body of knowledge, expertise, and proven practices on community power building.



January workshop panelists Tony Iton (The California Endowment), LaTosha Brown (Black Voters Matter), and Ai-jen Poo (National Domestic Worker Alliance and Caring Across Generations).



“I think that sense of community and connection that we create is not just about power, but is about that sense of self, that sense of belonging, that sense of collective confidence that we are and can be powerful together and can actually change the conditions of our lives.”

– Ai-jen Poo at the January 2021 workshop on community power

U.S. Health Care Expenditures: Costs, Lessons, and Opportunities

In March, the roundtable held a workshop that examined the persisting challenge of the nation's uncontrolled health care spending. The event also highlighted in detail the opportunity costs—other worthwhile investments the U.S. foregoes when it invests one-sixth of its economy in health care. Another component of the workshop explored innovative policy and communication approaches to address these issues, in addition to public views on evidence-based investments that improve population health and health equity.

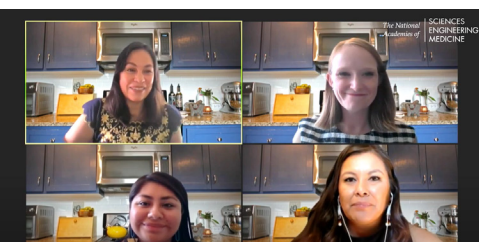
“There are innovative approaches to curb cost growth while improving quality and outcomes, but their adoption and implementation will require political will, leadership, data capacity and access, and investment in value-based care and social-needs care.”

– highlight from the workshop proceedings drawing on presentations of Rachel Block, Kara Odom-Walker, Benjamin Miladin, and Spencer Carrucciu





Tweet from roundtable co-chair Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo at the September 2021 workshop on spatial justice



Several September workshop planning committee members reflecting on the day's activities in Lourdes' "kitchen": Lourdes Rodriguez (St. David's Foundation), Dawn Alley (Morgan Health), Alejandra Hernandez (The Kresge Foundation), and Monique Tsosie (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.).



Civic Engagement and Civic Infrastructure to Advance Health Equity

The roundtable's June workshop examined civics as a key driver of health. It began with a conversation intended to connect the dots between health and civic engagement through the framework of the political determinants of health. It featured the work of scholars and practitioners working to gather data, develop and communicate measures, and protect and promote the health of American democracy. The workshop also featured presentations and discussions about civic infrastructure, from schools to local media, and included the voices of youth leaders and leaders working to facilitate voting access. The event concluded with a practical exercise that gave participants the opportunity to engage in a mini democratic deliberation.

Spatial Justice as a Driver of Health Equity in the Context of Societal Emergencies

The September workshop included discussions about the meaning of spatial justice and related concepts, explored private versus public access and design, and considered policy strategies that support greater inclusion. The presenters also reflected on the evidence about how spatial justice affects health and health equity, and the implications for improving design, planning, and infrastructure. The event included discussions about how using a spatial justice lens ought to shape planning and preparedness for societal emergencies, from pandemic response to the effects of climate change such as heat and flooding.



Economic Innovations to Support Health, Equity, and Well-Being: Exploring Policies that Further the Well-Being of Care Economy Workers

The December workshop was planned to center workers in the care economy, whose health and well-being are closely intertwined with the health and well-being of all American families. Child care workers as well as home care and long-term care workers provide invaluable services, caring for the youngest, the oldest, and the disabled members of families and communities. The workshop began with some historical and economic grounding—from the enslaved women who provided care to today's caregivers who remain primarily women of color—and the antecedents to the persisting injustices in pay and benefits, and the affronts to dignity that those workers face.



Tweet from workshop speaker Rita Hamad during the December workshop on the care economy

“[L]iterally nobody in America should be poor. It is a policy choice that we have anybody poor, and the tax code is a . . . viable way to redress poverty.”

– Darrick Hamilton at the December 2021 workshop on the care economy



Webinars

The roundtable partnered with the American Public Health Association, Vot-ER, Healthy Democracy Healthy People, and the Network for Public Health Law to host two webinars on voting and health in August (Civic Health Month) and September (September 28 is National Voter Registration Day).

In November, the roundtable partnered with the Funders Forum for Accountable Health (at The George Washington University) and the Georgia Health Policy Center to host a webinar about equitable community use of American Rescue Plan Act resources.

Also in November, the roundtable co-hosted a webinar with the [National Academies Response and Resilient Recovery Strategic Science Initiative](#) on housing instability and health, showcasing findings and conclusions from the consensus study report *Rental Eviction and the COVID-19 Pandemic*.

Proceedings of a Workshop

Six publications resulting from the roundtable's work were released in 2021:

Harnessing the Value of Co-Creating and Stewarding Places for Health, Equity, and Well-Being: Proceedings of a Workshop

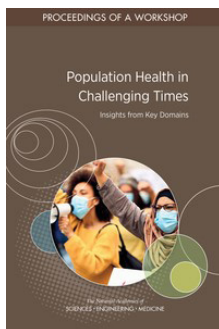
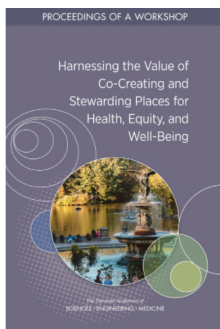
Population Health in Challenging Times: Insights from Key Domains: Proceedings a Workshop

Models for Population Health Improvement by Health Care Systems and Partners: Tensions and Promise on the Path Upstream: Proceedings of a Workshop

Population Health in Rural America in 2020: Proceedings of a Workshop

Population Health Science in the United States: Trends, Evidence, and Implications for Policy: Proceedings of a Joint Symposium

A Population Health Perspective on Middle School Success: Activities, Programs, and Policies: Proceedings of a Workshop





Other Publications¹

In 2021, three articles associated with roundtable activities were published by National Academy of Medicine (NAM) *Perspectives*, *Health Affairs*, and *JAMA Health Forum*.

[Social Determinants of Health 201 for Health Care: Plan, Do, Study, Act](#)

[The Reallocationists Versus the Direct Allocationists](#)

[Spatial Justice and Implications for US Health Care](#)

¹Disclaimer: The views expressed in these papers are those of the authors and not necessarily of the authors' organizations, the National Academy of Medicine (NAM), or the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (the National Academies). The papers are intended to help inform and stimulate discussion. They are not publications of the NAM or the National Academies. Copyright by the National Academy of Sciences. All rights reserved.

“Although health systems have come to accept their role in helping change community conditions in support of health, their complex institutional, financial, and sociopolitical considerations can prevent positive change or lead to more harm. We suggest that the concept of spatial justice must be incorporated in health system actions to improve population health.”

– Baciú, Rodriguez, and Bibbins-Domingo
in JAMA Health Forum article,
October 21, 2021



Members of the six university teams that competed in the 8th Annual DC Public Health Case Challenge held at the National Academy of Sciences.



Roundtable member Dawn Alley, second from the right served on the judging panel at the DC Public Health Case Challenge, along with Rebekah Horowitz, Ed Belcher, Matthew Rose, Nixon Arauz (left to right). Darrin D'Agostino participated remotely.

DC Public Health Case Challenge

On October 29, the roundtable co-hosted with the National Academy of Medicine the 8th Annual [DC Public Health Case Challenge](#), where six DC-area multi-disciplinary university teams competed in developing and presenting solutions to the challenge—this year focused on the prevention and control of bacterial sexually transmitted infections in 18–24-year-old residents of the District of Columbia. An 18-year-old youth leader participated on the judging panel. The teams researched DC community-based organizations and some highlighted the importance of engaging with and integrating community voices in the hypothetical projects they developed.



Victor Dzau, President of the NAM, welcomes DC Public Health Case Challenge participants, one of the first in-person events at the National Academy of Sciences Building since the start of the pandemic.

Action Collaboratives²

Health Care Expenditure

A 2012 Institute of Medicine report recommended that the Secretary of HHS set targets for life expectancy and per capita health (care) expenditure to bring the United States in line with the average among peer nations. A decade later, the U.S. standing in life expectancy and spending has not improved. The [Health Care Expenditure Collaborative](#) is facilitating dialogue and analysis about furthering this recommendation. The collaborative held monthly meetings and some of its members contributed as planners of or speakers at the roundtable's March workshop on the costs, opportunities, and lessons of U.S. health care spending.

Bridging Public Health, Health Care & Community

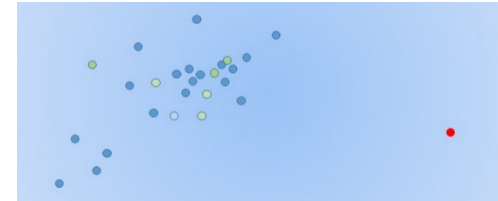
The collaborative, which was intended to serve as a conduit for sharing innovations at the interface of health care and public health, concluded its work in early 2021 after holding a webinar.

April 2021 | [Achieving Population Health Goals Through Integration](#)

The webinar featured Nemours' 2020 Integrator Learning Lab and spotlighted achievements of participating networks to illustrate the types of gains that are possible as a result of strategic alignment. Speakers presented a framework of essential integrative activities, as well as tools used to support network achievements, and a summary of insights, lessons learned, and areas for future focus.

Business Engagement in Building Healthy Communities

The [Action Collaborative on Business Engagement in Building Healthy Communities](#) is an ad hoc convening mechanism under the auspices of the roundtable. The collaborative's purpose is to facilitate private-sector partnerships and catalyze actions of business, health, community, and public sectors to work together to enhance the lives of workers and communities by improving the nation's health and wealth. The collaborative hosted two webinars.



A stylized rendering of a graph updating with 2018–2019 data Figure 1-2 from the 2012 IOM report *For the Public's Health: Investing in a Healthier Future*. The United States is an extreme outlier in per capita health care spending versus life expectancy (as a proxy for health sector performance).



²Disclaimer: Action Collaboratives are ad hoc convening mechanisms under the auspices of the Roundtable. Any products and activities associated with the collaboratives do not necessarily represent the views of any one organization, the Roundtable, or the National Academies and has not been subjected to the review procedures of, nor are they a reports or products of, the National Academies.



“When we think about our military, nobody says can you choose between the Army, the Navy, and the Marine Corps. And when we think about our care agenda and an agenda about building a system that includes childcare and paid family and medical leave and home and community-based services and paid sick days, I do not think we should have to choose just one.”

– Julie Kashen at the December 2021 workshop on the care economy

May 2021 | [Community Health and Economic Prosperity: Insights from the Surgeon General's Report](#)

This webinar focused on the 2021 U.S. Surgeon General's report on Community Health and Economic Prosperity, highlighting the role of business in shaping the conditions for better health and well-being. Anand Parekh from the Bipartisan Policy Center moderated a conversation with the senior editors of the report: Ursula Bauer from the Office of the Surgeon General and Greg Fairchild, professor at the University of Virginia Darden School of Business.

December 2021 | [From Healthy Communities to School Nutrition: A Company's Commitment to Its Community](#)

This webinar featured Nancy Easton (Wellness in the Schools), Curt Ellis (FoodCorps), and Kim Fortunato (Campbell Soup Company) sharing lessons learned from a decade long Campbell Soup Company collective in Camden, New Jersey, which focused on improving childhood health and school nutrition.



Looking Forward

Roundtable Activities in 2022



In 2022, roundtable members and staff will host four workshops and will further action collaborative efforts to encourage broad external engagement on topics of relevance to population health, in addition to continuing to disseminate and build on past work through webinars, convenings, and written products, including National Academy of Medicine *Perspectives*.

Workshop topics for 2022 will include the following:

1. February 28, 2022 – a workshop on the workforce for population health.
2. June 22, 2022 – a workshop on financing for population health and accountability to community.
3. September 19, 2022 – a workshop on the role of business/employers in population health.
4. December 13, 2022 – a workshop on the role of youth in leading and informing population health improvement efforts.





ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS

Ray Baxter (Co-Chair)

Blue Shield of California Foundation

Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo (Co-Chair)

University of California, San Francisco

Philip Alberti

Association of American Medical Colleges

Dawn Alley

Morgan Health

John Auerbach (until July 2021)

Trust for America's Health

Debbie I. Chang

Blue Shield of California Foundation

Marc N. Gourevitch

NYU Langone Health

Meg Guerin-Calvert

FTI Consulting

Gary R. Gunderson (through

September 2021)

Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist

Stakeholder Health

Wake Forest University

Dora Hughes

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Hilary Heishman (from May 2021)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Sheri Johnson

University of Wisconsin–Madison

Wayne Jonas

H&S Ventures

Robert M. Kaplan

Stanford University

Michelle Larkin (through May 2021)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Milton Little

United Way of Greater Atlanta

Phyllis D. Meadows

The Kresge Foundation

Bobby Milstein

ReThink Health

José T. Montero

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Kara Odom Walker

Nemours Children's Health System

Willie (Billy) Oglesby

Jefferson University

Jason Purnell

BJC Health Care

Washington University in Saint Louis

Lourdes J. Rodríguez

St. David's Foundation

Pamela Russo (through April 2021)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Kosali Simon

Indiana University

Terry Williams (from October 2021)

Atrium Health

Oktawia Wojcik (from June 2021)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Hanh Cao Yu

The California Endowment

ROUNDTABLE SPONSORS

Association of American Medical Colleges
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina
Blue Shield of California Foundation
The California Endowment
The Kresge Foundation
Nemours
The Rippel Foundation
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Saint David Foundation
Samueli Foundation
The Snowy Owl Foundation
Thomas Jefferson University
Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center

This list includes all organizations that were sponsors of the roundtable for any part of 2021.

ROUNDTABLE VISION AND MISSION

Vision | A thriving, healthful, and equitable society

Mission | In recognition that health and quality of life for all are shaped by interdependent historical and contemporary social, political, economic, environmental, genetic, behavioral, and health care factors, the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement exists to provoke and catalyze urgently needed multi-sector, community-engaged collaborative action.

ROUNDTABLE STAFF

ALINA B. BACIU

Roundtable Director

CARLA ALVARADO (through January 2021)

Program Officer

ALEXANDRA ANDRADA (from February 2021)

Program Officer

AYSHIA COLETRANE

Senior Program Assistant

HARIKA DYER (through July 2021)

Research Assistant

MAGDALINE ANDERSON (from September 2021)

Research Assistant

ROSE MARIE MARTINEZ

*Senior Director, Board on Population Health
and Public Health Practice*

MISRAK DABI

Financial Business Partner

TIMELINE

2013 | February: The Roundtable on Population Health Improvement is launched | April Workshop: Perspectives on Improving Population Health | June Workshop: Population Health and the Affordable Care Act | September Workshop: Applying a Health Lens to Decision Making in Non-Health Sectors | December Workshop: Accelerating a Movement to Improve Health and Promote Health Equity

2014 | February Workshop: Resources for Population Health Improvement | April Workshop: The Role and Potential of Communities in Population Health Improvement | June Workshop: Opportunities for Progress at the Interface of Health and Education | July Workshop: Business Engagement in Achieving Population Health | September Workshop: Communicating to Advance the Public's Health | December Workshop: Achieving Meaningful Population Health Outcomes: A Workshop on Spread and Scale

2015 | February Workshop: Public Health and Health Care: Collaboration and Innovation at the Interface | April Workshop: How Modeling Can Inform Strategies to Improve Population Health: A Workshop | June Workshop: Applying a Health Lens II: The Role and Potential of the Private Sector to Improve Economic Well-Being and Community Outcomes | July Workshop: Metrics That Matter for Population Health Action | September Workshop: Advancing the Science to Improve Population Health

2016 | February Workshop: Framing the Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity to Advance Health Equity | June Workshop: Community Violence as a Population Health Issue | October Workshop: Building Sustainable Financing Structures for Population Health | December Workshop: Exploring the Infrastructure of Multisector Community Health Partnerships

2017 | March Workshop: Protecting the Health and Well-Being of Communities in a Changing Climate | June Workshop: Achieving Rural Health Equity and Well-Being: Challenges and Opportunities | September Workshop: Exploring Early

Childhood Care and Education Levers to Improve Population Health | December Workshop: Exploring Tax Policy to Advance Population Health, Health Equity, and Economic Prosperity

2018 | March Workshop: Faith–Health Collaboration to Improve Population Health | June Workshop: School Success: An Opportunity for Population Health Action | October Workshop: Population Health Science in the United States: Trends, Evidence, and Effective Policy | December Workshop: Reorienting Health Care and Business Investment Priorities Toward Health and Well-Being

2019 | March Workshop: Dialogue About the Workforce for Population Health Improvement | June Workshop (joint event with three other groups in the National Academies): Implications of the California Wildfires for Health, Communities, and Preparedness | September Workshop: Models for Population Health Improvement by Health Care Systems and Partners: Tensions and Promise on the Path Upstream | December Workshop: A Population Health Perspective on Middle School Success: Activities, Programs, and Policies

2020 | February Workshop: Harnessing the Value in Co-creating and Keeping Inclusive Healthy Places | June Workshop: Population Health in Rural America 2020 | September Workshop: Population Health in Challenging Times: Insights from Key Domains

2021 | January Workshop: Community Power/Community-Led Initiatives to Improve Health | March Workshop: US Health Care Expenditures: Costs, Opportunities, and Lessons | June Workshop: Civic Engagement and Civic Infrastructure to Advance Health Equity | September Workshop: Spatial Justice as a Driver of Health in the Context of Societal Emergencies | December Workshop: Economic Innovations to Support Health, Equity, and Well-Being: Exploring Policies that Further the Well-Being of Care Economy Workers.

About the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement

The Roundtable on Population Health Improvement was established in February 2013 to bring together philanthropy, community-based organizations, health care delivery, governmental public health, academia, and business in a wide-ranging dialogue about what is needed to improve health in the United States and across diverse populations. Multiple National Academies publications have added to a growing chorus of concern that while U.S. spending on health care services has no peer, the nation's performance as measured by key health metrics leaves much to be desired. Finding solutions calls for acknowledging that health is created by many different factors, and that child poverty, the high school dropout rate, and a lack of affordable housing, to name a few such factors, have far-reaching consequences for the health of individuals, communities, and the nation. Finding solutions also requires unusual partnerships and creative interactions across disciplines and sectors, involving a combination of individual resolve, community action, and societal commitment. To inform the dialogue among those seeking and implementing such solutions, the roundtable hosts four workshops per year that bring together a range of experts to explore topics of interest and showcase promising examples and lessons learned.

Information about the roundtable is available at <http://www.nas.edu/pophealthRT>.

About the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

The National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the National Academy of Medicine work together as the [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#) (the National Academies) to provide independent, objective analysis and advice to the nation and conduct other activities to solve complex problems and inform public policy decisions. The National Academies also encourage education and research, recognize outstanding contributions to knowledge, and increase public understanding in matters of science, engineering, and medicine.

The Health and Medicine Division (HMD), formerly known as the program unit of the Institute of Medicine, is a division of the National Academies. HMD's aim is to help those in government and the private sector make informed health decisions by providing evidence upon which they can rely. Each year, more than 3,000 individuals volunteer their time, knowledge, and expertise to advance the nation's health through the work of HMD.

Many of the studies that HMD undertakes are requested by federal agencies and independent organizations; others begin as specific mandates from Congress. While its expert, consensus committees are vital to its advisory role, HMD also convenes a series of forums, roundtables, and standing committees, as well as other activities, to facilitate discussion, discovery, and critical cross-disciplinary thinking.

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