The New York State Prevention Agenda 2019-2024: An Overview
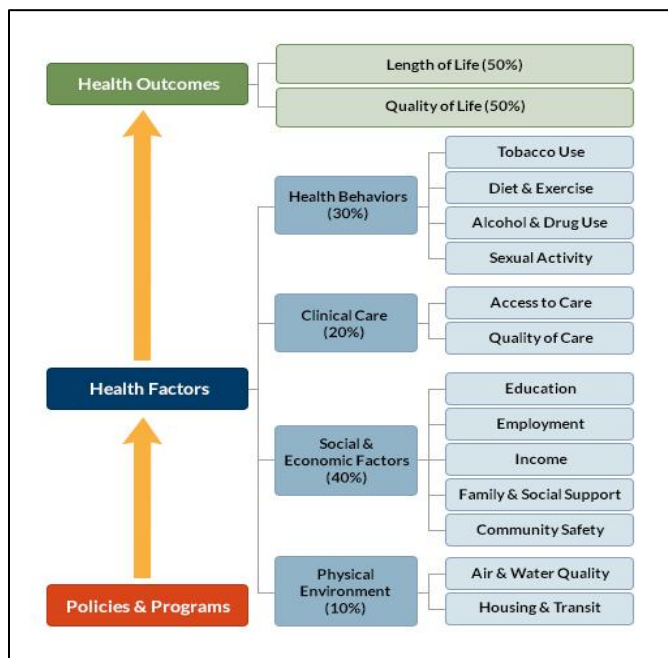
Updated: April 27, 2021

The Prevention Agenda 2019-2024 is New York State's health improvement plan, the blueprint for state and local action to improve the health and well-being of all New Yorkers and promote health equity across populations who experience disparities. In partnership with more than 100 organizations across the state, the Prevention Agenda is updated by the New York State Public Health and Health Planning Council at the request of the Department of Health. This is the third cycle for this statewide initiative that started in 2008.

The vision of the Prevention Agenda for 2019-2024 is that New York is the Healthiest State in the Nation for People of All Ages. We are proud that, since 2008, New York has moved from the 28th to 10th healthiest state on America's Health Rankings,[1] demonstrating real progress toward achieving our vision.

The Prevention Agenda is based on a comprehensive statewide assessment of health status and health disparities, changing demographics, and the underlying causes of death and diseases. We used the County Health Rankings model (*Figure 1*) as the framework for understanding the modifiable determinants of health (without discounting the role of genetics).[2] New to this 2019-2024 cycle is the incorporation of a Health Across All Policies approach, initiated by New York State in 2017, which calls on all State agencies to identify and strengthen the ways that their policies and programs can have a positive impact on health. It embraces Healthy Aging to support the State's commitment to making New York the first age-friendly state. The 2019-2024 cycle also builds on the important experiences—both successes and challenges—of local Prevention Agenda coalitions from across the state, who were formed in previous cycles of the Prevention Agenda to identify and address their local communities' health priorities.

The overarching strategy of the Prevention Agenda is to implement public health approaches that improve the health and well-being of entire populations and achieve health equity. This strategy includes an emphasis on social determinants of health – defined by Healthy People 2020 as the conditions in the environments in which people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

Figure 1: County Health Rankings model © 2014 UWPHI

Such determinants include social and economic opportunities, education, safety in neighborhoods and communities, the quality of physical environments (e.g., the cleanliness of our water, food, air, and housing), and social interactions and relationships. Health behaviors and access to health care are also important (*Figure 2*).

Figure 2 [3,4]

Examples of Social Determinants

- Availability of resources to meet daily needs (e.g., safe housing and local food markets)
- Access to educational, economic and job opportunities
- Access to health care services
- Quality of education and job training
- Availability of community-based resources that support healthy lifestyles and opportunities for recreational and leisure-time activities
- Transportation options
- Public safety
- Social support
- Social norms and attitudes (e.g., discrimination, racism, and distrust of government
- Exposure to crime, violence, and social disorder (e.g., presence of trash, lack of cooperation in a community)
- Socioeconomic conditions (e.g., concentrated poverty and the accompanying stressful conditions)
- Residential segregation
- Language and literacy
- Access to mass media and emerging technologies (e.g., cell phones, the Internet and social media)
- Culture
- Natural environment, such as green space (e.g., trees and grass) or weather (e.g., climate change)
- Built environment, such as buildings, sidewalks, bike lanes, and roads
- Worksites, schools, and recreational settings
- Housing and community design
- Exposure to toxic substances and other physical hazards
- Physical barriers, especially for people with disabilities
- Aesthetic elements (e.g., good lighting, trees, and benches)

The conditions in the environments where people live, work and play have a significant influence on health status and quality of life and are root causes of poor health and adverse outcomes. Changing these outcomes requires us to address collaboratively the social, economic, and physical conditions that contribute to poor health and well-being.

To achieve our vision, the Prevention Agenda calls for cross-sector partnerships (e.g., public health, health care, housing, education, and social services, etc.) to address social determinants of health across five key areas (*Figure 3*):

1. Economic Stability
2. Education
3. Social and Community Context
4. Health and Health Care
5. Neighborhood and Built Environment

especially by encouraging alignment of investments in primary prevention[5] and using community and policy-level interventions to have widespread and lasting positive health impacts (*Figure 4*).

Figure 3: Social Determinants of Health

Figure 4: Social Ecological Model [6]

Process for Developing the Updated Prevention Agenda

Active participation and feedback from the Ad Hoc Committee to Lead the Prevention Agenda and stakeholders across the state were essential for updating the Prevention Agenda for 2019-2024. Many organizations were engaged in developing this updated plan, including local health departments, health care providers, community-based organizations, advocacy groups, academia, employers, schools, and businesses. These organizations reviewed the data on health status and emerging health issues, participated in finalizing the Cross-Cutting Principles (*Figure 5*), updated the list of priorities and developed priority-specific action plans.

Figure 5

Cross-Cutting Principles

To improve health outcomes, enable well-being, and promote equity across the lifespan, the Prevention Agenda:

- Focuses on addressing social determinants of health and reducing health disparities
- Incorporates a Health Across All Policies approach
- Emphasizes healthy aging across the lifespan
- Promotes community engagement and collaboration across sectors in the development and implementation of local plans
- Maximizes impact with evidence-based interventions for state and local action
- Advocates for increased investments in prevention from all sources
- Concentrates on primary and secondary prevention, rather than on health care design or reimbursement

---

The New York State Office of Mental Health and the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services have been core partners since 2013. New in this 2019-2024 cycle is the involvement of the New York State Office for the Aging and other State agencies in identifying specific interventions that they will implement to advance the Prevention Agenda in improving the health of individuals of all ages. These collaborations are the foundation of the 2019-2024 plan.

The Prevention Agenda 2019-2024 has five priorities with priority-specific action plans developed collaboratively with input from community stakeholders (*Figure 6)*.

Priority Area: Prevent Chronic Diseases	**Focus Area 1: Healthy Eating and Food Security**
	Overarching Goal: Reduce obesity and the risk of chronic diseases
	Goal 1.1: Increase access to healthy and affordable foods and beverages
	Goal 1.2: Increase skills and knowledge to support healthy food and beverage choices
	Goal 1.3: Increase food security
	Focus Area 2: Physical Activity
	Overarching Goal: Reduce obesity and the risk of chronic diseases
	Goal 2.1: Improve community environments that support active transportation and recreational physical activity for people of all ages and abilities
	Goal 2.2: Promote school, child care, and worksite environments that support physical activity for people of all ages and abilities
	Goal 2.3: Increase access, for people of all ages and abilities, to safe indoor and/or outdoor places for physical activity
	Focus Area 3: Tobacco Prevention
	Goal 3.1: Prevent initiation of tobacco use, including combustible tobacco and electronic vaping products (electronic cigarettes and similar devices) by youth and young adults
	Goal 3.2: Promote tobacco use cessation, especially among populations disproportionately affected by tobacco use including: low SES; frequent mental distress/substance use disorder; LGBT; and disability
	Goal 3.3: Eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke and exposure to secondhand aerosol/emissions from electronic vapor products
	Focus Area 4: Preventive Care and Management
	Goal 4.1: Increase cancer screening rates for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer
	Goal 4.2: Increase early detection of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, prediabetes and obesity
	Goal 4.3: Promote the use of evidence-based care to manage chronic diseases
	Goal 4.4: Improve self-management skills for individuals with chronic conditions
Priority Area: Promote a Healthy and Safe Environment	**Focus Area 1: Injuries, Violence and Occupational Health**
	Goal 1.1: Reduce falls among vulnerable populations
	Goal 1.2: Reduce violence by targeting prevention programs particularly to highest risk populations
	Goal 1.3: Reduce occupational injuries and illness
	Goal 1.4: Reduce traffic related injuries for pedestrians and bicyclists
	Focus Area 2: Outdoor Air Quality
	Goal 2.1: Reduce exposure to outdoor air pollutants
	Focus Area 3: Built and Indoor Environments
	Goal 3.1: Improve design and maintenance of the built environment to promote healthy lifestyles, sustainability, and adaptation to climate change
	Goal 3.2: Promote healthy home and school environments
	Focus Area 4: Water Quality
	Goal 4.1: Protect water sources and ensure quality drinking water
	Goal 4.2: Protect vulnerable waterbodies to reduce potential public health risks associated with exposure to recreational water
	Focus Area 5: Food and Consumer Products
	Goal 5.1: Raise awareness of the potential presence of chemical contaminants and promote strategies to reduce exposure
	Goal 5.2: Improve food safety management

Priority Area: Promote Healthy Women, Infants and Children	**Focus Area 1: Maternal & Women's Health**
	Goal 1.1: Increase use of primary and preventive health care services by women of all ages, with a focus on women of reproductive age
	Goal 1.2: Reduce maternal mortality and morbidity
	Focus Area 2: Perinatal & Infant Health
	Goal 2.1: Reduce infant mortality and morbidity
	Goal 2.2: Increase breastfeeding
	Focus Area 3: Child & Adolescent Health
	Goal 3.1: Support and enhance children and adolescents' social-emotional development and relationships
	Goal 3.2: Increase supports for children and youth with special health care needs
	Goal 3.3: Reduce dental caries among children
	Focus Area 4: Cross Cutting Healthy Women, Infants, & Children
	Goal 4.1: Reduce racial, ethnic, economic, and geographic disparities in maternal and child health outcomes and promote health equity for maternal and child health populations
Priority Area: Promote Well-Being and Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders	**Focus Area 1: Promote Well-Being**
	Goal 1.1: Strengthen opportunities to build well-being and resilience across the lifespan
	Goal 1.2: Facilitate supportive environments that promote respect and dignity for people of all ages
	Focus Area 2: Prevent Mental and Substance Use Disorders
	Goal 2.1: Prevent underage drinking and excessive alcohol consumption by adults
	Goal 2.2: Prevent opioid and other substance misuse and deaths
	Goal 2.3: Prevent and address adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
	Goal 2.4: Reduce the prevalence of major depressive disorders
	Goal 2.5: Prevent suicides
	Goal 2.6: Reduce the mortality gap between those living with serious mental illness and the general population
Priority Area: Prevent Communicable Diseases	**Focus Area 1: Vaccine-Preventable Diseases**
	Goal 1.1: Improve vaccination rates
	Goal 1.2: Reduce vaccination coverage disparities
	Focus Area 2: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
	Goal 2.1: Decrease HIV morbidity (new HIV diagnoses)
	Goal 2.2: Increase viral suppression
	Focus Area 3: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
	Goal 3.1: Reduce the annual rate of growth for STIs
	Focus Area 4: Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)
	Goal 4.1: Increase the number of persons treated for HCV
	Goal 4.2: Reduce the number of new HCV cases among people who inject drugs
	Focus Area 5: Antibiotic Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections
	Goal 5.1: Improve infection control in healthcare facilities
	Goal 5.2: Reduce infections caused by multidrug resistant organisms and C. difficile
	Goal 5.3: Reduce inappropriate antibiotic use

Each priority-specific action plan includes focus areas, goals, objectives, and measures for evidence-based interventions to track their impacts – including reductions in health disparities among racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups, age groups, and persons with disabilities. These objectives will be tracked on the New York State Prevention Agenda Dashboard. The Prevention Agenda Action Plans provide communities with recommended evidence-based interventions, promising practices, and guidance to support implementation (e.g., by highlighting organizations that are well-positioned to take leading or supporting roles). The plans emphasize interventions that address social determinants of health, promote health equity across communities, and support healthy and active aging.

Implementing the five priority-specific action plans in the Prevention Agenda 2019-2024 will improve major cross-cutting health outcomes and reduce health disparities (*Figure 7*), as measured by the following indicators:

Figure 7: New York State Prevention Agenda 2019-2024 Cross-Cutting Objectives

Prevention Agenda (PA) Indicator	Baseline Year	Baseline	Prevention Agenda 2024 Objective	Percent Improvement from Baseline
Cross-Cutting Objectives to Improve Health Status and Reduce Health Disparities				
Percentage of premature deaths (before age 65 years)	2016	**24**	**22.8**	**-5%**
Difference in percentage (Black non-Hispanic and White non-Hispanic) of premature deaths	2016	**18.2**	**17.3**	**-5%**
Difference in percentage (Hispanic and White non-Hispanic) of premature deaths	2016	**17.1**	**16.2**	**-5%**
Preventable hospitalizations among adults, age-adjusted rate per 10,000	2016	**121.1**	**115.0**	**-5%**
Preventable hospitalizations among adults, difference in age-adjusted rates per 10,000 between Black non-Hispanics and White non-Hispanics	2016	**98.9**	**94.0**	**-5%**
Preventable hospitalizations among adults, difference in age-adjusted rates per 10,000 between Hispanics and White non-Hispanics	2016	**25.2**	**23.9**	**-5%**
Percentage of adults (aged 18-64) with health insurance	2016	**91.4**	**97.0**	**+ 6%**
Age-adjusted percentage of adults who have a regular health care provider - Aged 18+ years	2016	**82.6**	**86.7**	**+ 5%**

The Prevention Agenda aims to be a dynamic plan and a catalyst for action. Key to its success will be the alignment of efforts across State agencies, working with local governments and Prevention Agenda coalitions, and facilitating active community engagement. The Ad Hoc Committee will encourage its members and partners across the state to share effective strategies for improving community health. The Public Health and Health Planning Council will oversee implementation and use lessons learned to advance the Prevention Agenda.

References

[1] United Health Foundation. America's Health Rankings Annual Report, 2017. https://www.americashealthrankings.org/about/methodology/our-reports

[2] Our Methods. County Health Rankings and Roadmaps web site. http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/our-methods. Accessed November 2, 2018.

[3] US Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2020. Social Determinants of Health. https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health

[4] Social Determinants of Health, 2nd Edition. M Marmot and R Wilkinson (eds). Oxford University Press, 2006.

[5] NYS Department of Health Letter and Community Health Planning Guidance 2016-18 https://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/prevention_agenda/2013-2017/docs/letter_community_planning_guidance_2016_18.pdf

[6] Social Ecological Model. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site. Updated January 28, 2013. https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/nbccedp/sem.htm. Accessed November 2, 2018.