

The Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund (PWTF) of Massachusetts is a first-in-the-nation effort to **improve health outcomes** by combining **public health and health care strategies**.

Established by the state legislature through Chapter 224 of the Acts of 2012, PWTF received \$60 million over four years, through funding from an assessment of health insurers and large hospital systems. **The MetroWest Prevention & Wellness Partnership, coordinated by the Town of Hudson, received \$4.5 million as one of nine partnerships across the Commonwealth.**

THE NEED

Preventable and chronic health conditions continue to climb.

Furthermore, health care inequities based on race, income, and geography are a persistent challenge. Framingham, Hudson, Marlborough, and Northborough communities adjoin each other and share many cultural and social assets, institutions, and aspirations. They are also home to some of Massachusetts' most diverse, vulnerable, and high-risk individuals and families.

Prior to PWTF, there was no coordinated approach to address common health challenges and inequities affecting these communities. **PWTF leverages a network of health care providers, community-based organizations, residents, leaders, and existing initiatives to bring a comprehensive approach to the prevention and management of pediatric asthma, hypertension, falls in older adults, and tobacco use.**

CLINICAL PARTNERS

- Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center, Framingham
- MetroWest Medical Center
- Charles River Medical Associates
- Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Hudson Health Department
- Framingham Health Department
- Marlborough Health Department
- Northborough Health Department
- MetroWest YMCA
- YMCA of Central MA., Boroughs Family Branch
- Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc.
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- Center for Health Impact

METROWEST SNAPSHOT

Includes Framingham, Hudson, Marlborough, and Northborough
140,000 residents¹;

Health Equity: 37.5% of patients at the clinical sites are Hispanic/Latino²

Pediatric Asthma: 13.8% of children in the region have asthma.³

Hypertension: 28.8% of adults in the region have hypertension.³

Falls in Older Adults:

Nearly 10% of adults over age 65 experienced a fall with an injury in the last 12 months.³

Tobacco Use: 15.8% of patients in the region use tobacco.²

"I'm so thankful that I'm getting taken care of like this."



John DeBarios participated in the Assisted Home Safety Assessment to prevent falls at home. He received lighting supplies for his bathroom and hallways.

A COORDINATED APPROACH

The PWTF model implements evidence-based prevention approaches at a systemic level, which complements existing health care services and ongoing health care transformation efforts. PWTF focuses on extending care into the community through **clinical-community linkages**, while developing stronger evidence of effective prevention programming.



CLINICAL

Identify high risk patients, treat them according to clinical guidelines, and refer them to prevention-based programming outside of the clinical setting.



LINKAGE

Bridge services through warm hand-offs by Community Health Workers (CHWs) and electronic systems; build strong partnerships among clinical and community leaders.



COMMUNITY

Evidence-based interventions at community-based and social service organizations, i.e., Chronic Disease Self-Management, Asthma Home Visiting, Tai Chi, etc.

THE PARTNERSHIPS

PWTF supports a partnership that shares leadership among clinical, municipal, and community organizations.

The coordinating partner (Town of Hudson) is responsible for building, monitoring, and maintaining a robust infrastructure of working relationships that focuses on referral management, training, data collection and evaluation, and quality improvement.

THE LOCAL IMPACT

Since implementing the program, the MetroWest Prevention & Wellness Partnership **made over 875 referrals** from health care providers to community organizations. PWTF is proving to be an essential component in the mission to improve health outcomes and combat health inequities in our communities.

Massachusetts
Department of
Public Health



Learn more at www.mass.gov/pwtf

1. US Census, American FactFinder. 2010 data. Prepared by MDPH.

2. PWTF Clinical Data. 2013-2015 data. Prepared by MPDH.

3. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDC and Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health. 2011-2014 data. Prepared by MDPH. Grantee SAE covers three years to stabilize the small sample numbers.