

The New York Academy of Medicine's Primary Care and Population Health Working Group, established in 2010 and co-chaired by the Academy and the NYU School of Medicine Department of Population Health, explores the intersection between the health care delivery system and population health and works to ensure that population health is central to the implementation of health care reform in New York. The group, comprising experts and thought leaders from academia, public and private health systems, state and local health departments, payers/insurers, private practitioners, community health centers, and other health care organizations, has adopted a definition of Population Health, as follows:

*Definition of Total Population Health*

*As health reform efforts in New York State proceed to drive the improvement of the health of populations either receiving clinical care and/or insured by a specific program, it is important to align these “enrollee” and “panel” population health efforts with broader initiatives to achieve “total” population health.*

*Improving total population health means improving the health and wellbeing of all people in a population in a given geographic area while eliminating health inequities.*

*Substantive partnerships with communities, and across sectors affecting health (including but not limited to public health, health care, housing, education, and social services), as well as shared responsibility/accountability and supportive financing models, are required to achieving these goals.*