

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What is the Million Hearts™ initiative?

Million Hearts™ is a national initiative designed to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes in the United States by the end of 2016.

Why does Million Hearts™ exist?

Heart disease and stroke are two of the leading causes of death in the United States and responsible for one of every three deaths in the country. Million Hearts™ brings together a wide range of heart disease and stroke prevention programs, policies, and activities to raise awareness among health care professionals, health care systems, private-sector organizations, policymakers, and consumers about what can be done to prevent heart disease and stroke in our nation.

What is new about Million Hearts™?

The Million Hearts™ initiative focuses, coordinates, and enhances cardiovascular disease prevention activities across the public and private sectors in an unparalleled effort to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes by the end of 2016 and demonstrate to the American people that improving the health system can save lives. Million Hearts™ will advance proven clinical and community strategies to prevent heart disease and stroke across the nation.

What are some examples of Million Hearts™ activities?

Some of Million Hearts™ wide-ranging activities include:

- Educational campaigns to increase awareness about heart disease prevention and empower patients to take control of their heart health.
- Use of health information technology and quality improvement initiatives to standardize and improve the delivery of care for high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- Community efforts to promote smoke-free air policies and reduce sodium in the food supply.

When did Million Hearts™ begin?

The Million Hearts™ initiative was launched in September 2011.

How long will Million Hearts™ last?

Million Hearts™ will last for five years, but the impact of the program is expected to continue far into the future.

Who leads Million Hearts™?

Forging strong partnerships is key to the success of Million Hearts™. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services co-lead Million Hearts™ within the federal government, working alongside key private sector organizations such as the American Heart Association and YMCA.

Who is involved in Million Hearts™?

Million Hearts™ has a role for everyone, from consumers and health care professionals to employers and communities. Multiple agencies with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are involved in Million Hearts™, including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the HHS Office of the Secretary, the Indian Health Service, the National Institutes of Health, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Private-sector organizations with significant participation in the initiative include the American Heart Association and YMCA. Please see the list of partners available at millionhearts.hhs.gov for more information about the many organizations that have pledged to support Million Hearts™.

How will Million Hearts™ achieve its goal?

Million Hearts™ will achieve its goal by emphasizing cardiovascular health across patients, providers, communities, and other stakeholders. Million Hearts™ is bringing together a number of programs, policies, and campaigns designed to make a positive impact across the spectrum of prevention and care, promoting the “ABCS” of clinical prevention (appropriate Aspirin therapy, Blood pressure control, Cholesterol management, and Smoking cessation), as well as healthier lifestyles and communities.