

Welcome to today's Coffee Break presented by the Applied Research and Evaluation (ARE) Branch in the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

We are fortunate to have **Sharada Shantharam** as today's presenter. Sharada is a Health Scientist with IHRC, Inc. supporting our division. She sits on the **Applied Research and Translation Team** (ART) within CDC's Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention.

My name is **Lauren Taylor** and I am today's moderator. I am also on the ART team within the **ARE Branch**.



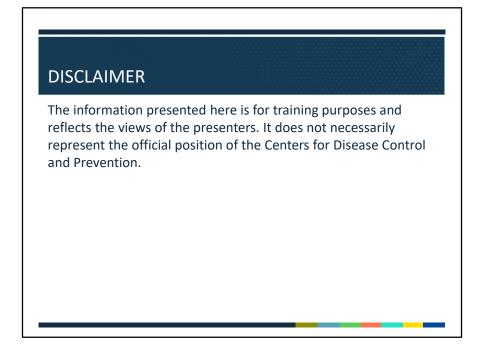
Before we begin we have a few housekeeping items.

All participants have been muted. However, to improve audio quality please mute your phones and microphones.

If you are having issues with audio or seeing the presentation, please message us using the chat box or send us an email at AREBheartinfo@cdc.gov

If you have questions during the presentation, please enter it on the chat box on your screen. We will address your questions at the end of the session.

Since this is a training series on applied research and evaluation, we hope you will complete the poll at the end of the presentation and provide us with your feedback.

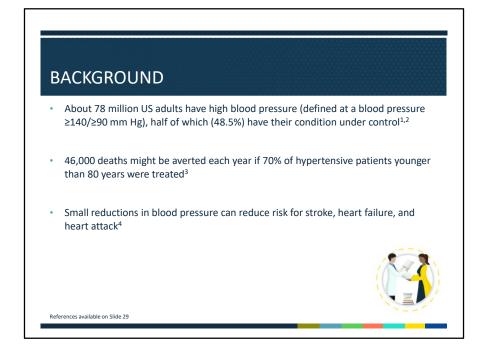


The information presented here is for training purposes and reflects the views of the presenters. It does not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

So, without further delay. Let's get started. Sharada, the floor is yours.

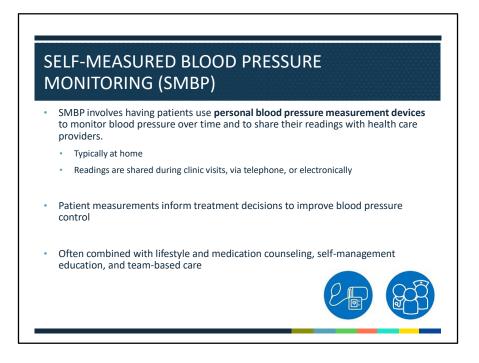


Thank you, **Lauren**! So, for today's presentation we'll be really focusing on selfmeasured blood pressure monitoring, or SMBP. The Community Preventive Services Task Force conducted two systematic reviews on the health impact and costeffectiveness of SMBP and so I'll be sharing those results. And I'll also share some preliminary results around the cost of **implementing** SMBP. And then we'll round off the presentation with the next steps and any questions folks may have.



So, as you know, high blood pressure, or hypertension, is one of the leading risk factors for heart disease. And it's also a modifiable risk factor. Close to 78 million US adults have high blood pressure. Only about half, about 39 million, have it under control. This isn't a small problem. Heart disease is the number one cause of death in the country and hypertension is one of the leading risk factors for heart disease.

We've seen in research that even small reductions in blood pressure levels can dramatically reduce the risk for heart disease. If 70% of hypertensive patients were treated according to the current clinical guidelines, **46,000 deaths** could be averted. And a 10pt reduction in systolic blood pressure or 5pt in diastolic blood pressure translates to 22% risk reduction for coronary heart disease and **41%** for stroke.



So, getting to the topic of today's presentation, SMBP is one of the interventions the CDC supports to address hypertension.

SMBP is essentially the use of a personal blood pressure measurement device by a patient to monitor and help manage their blood pressure. These are usually small devices like portable cuffs that the patients can use by themselves, with a little training, in the comfort of their own home. It's a great way to empower patients to get more involved. They can share their readings with their providers electronically or during regular office visits.

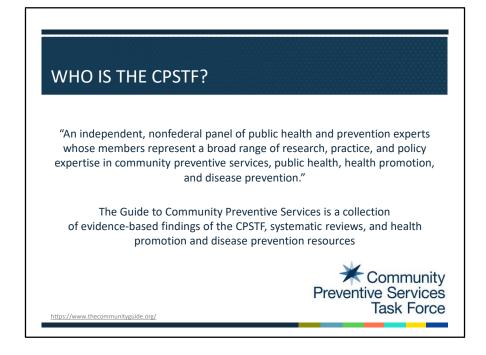
The idea is for the measurements to help inform providers of which treatment decisions and protocols to follow. And oftentimes, SMBP may be combined with the additional support:

- One-on-one patient counseling
- Educational sessions
- Access to electronic or web-based tools

It can also be used in conjunction with team-based care models to support a collaborative approach that providers can take to patient care.



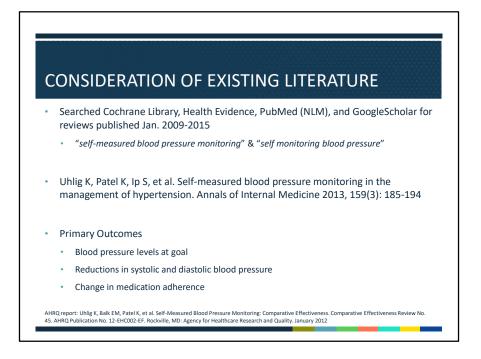
So, I wanted to give a quick overview of the Community Preventive Services Task Force.



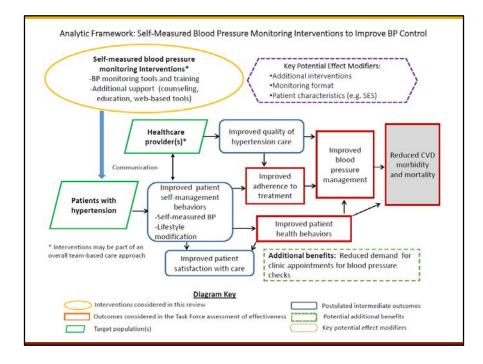
The Community Preventive Services Task Force is an independent, nonfederal panel of public health and prevention experts whose members are appointed by the director of CDC. The Task Force provides information for a wide range of decision makers on programs, services, and other interventions aimed at improving population health.

The **Guide** to Community Preventive Services, also referred to as The Community Guide, is made up of evidence-based findings from the Task Force, and the systematic reviews on which those findings are based. The Community Guide is a resource to help you select interventions to improve health and prevent disease in your state, community, business, healthcare setting, or school.

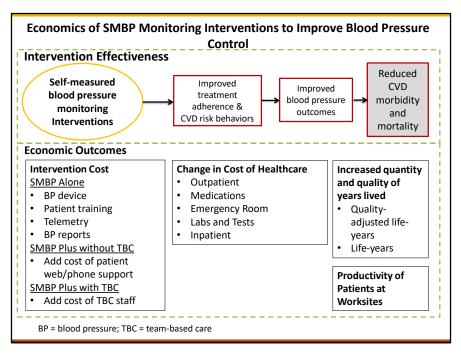
And while they do conduct their own systematic reviews, the Community Guide will also review and consider published research that may be adapted with some modifications for their consideration.



As they were scoping their work for SMBP, they started by searching multiple databases for literature published between January 2009-2015. One paper by Uhlig and colleagues published in 2013 for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality focused on the proportion of patients with blood pressure levels at goal, reductions in systolic and diastolic blood pressure, and medication adherence. The Task Force used this report as a basis for their research.



I won't go into the details of this slide because it's a lot to take in, but essentially this is the analytic framework for the effectiveness review, which drew on the Uhlig paper, considered intervention impacts on several key outcomes of effectiveness.



In addition to effectiveness, the Task Force also conducts cost-effectiveness reviews of those interventions that they recommend. And so, this is a flow chart depicting transitions in health status from the effectiveness analytic framework on the top and with associated economic concepts of resource use and economic benefits below.

Again, I won't go through all the details, but the economic outcomes included the cost of the intervention itself, changes in health care costs, and long-term benefits. Ultimately, the researchers considered whether the interventions are cost-saving and/or cost-effective.

SUMMARY OF BLOOD PRESSURE OUTCOMES*		
Outcome	SMBP Alone	SMBP with Additional Support
Proportion of patients with BP at goal	Median: +6.9 pct pts • IQI: 3.7 to 22.0 pct pts • 13 study arms	Median: 5.3 pct pts IQI: -0.5 to 12.0 pct pts 18 study arms
Change in mean SBP	Median: -3.2 mmHg IQI: -7.5 to -0.05 mmHg Is study arms	Median: -4.6 mmHg • IQI: -8.7 to -2.1 mmHg • 26 study arms
Change in mean DBP	Median: -1.3 mmHg • IQI: -3.4 to 0.25 mmHg • 21 study arms	Median: -2.3 mmHg • IQI: -3.9 to -0.83 mmHg • 28 study arms
Medication Adherence	 1 favorable[†] 3 favorable 2 unfavorable 6 studies 	 2 favorable[†] 5 favorable 7 studies

Here are the results from the effectiveness review when compared to usual care. For both SMBP alone and SMBP with additional support, there was in increase in the proportion of patients with blood pressure at goal and reductions in average systolic and diastolic blood pressure levels.

With medication adherence, the strength of the evidence was low. The findings were inconsistent, although a few studies showed better medication adherence when SMBP was involved.

	SMBP Alone	SMBP with Additional Support	SMBP within TBC
Number of Estimates	3	4	6
Number of Studies	3	4	4
Cost-effective estimates	0	4	3
Not cost-effective estimates	3ª	0	3 ^b
Total Cost per QALY Saved	Mean: Method 1 ^c \$100K Method 2 ^d \$144K	Median (IQI): Method 1 ^c \$2.8K (\$525 to \$5.1K) Method 2 ^d \$4K (\$756 to \$7.4K)	Median (IQI): Method 1 ^c \$10.9K (\$4.2K to \$108K) Method 2 ^d \$15.7K (\$6.1K to \$157K)
	ase in SBP; ^b 2 est , Based on McEw	imates were not cost-effect van 2005; ^d Method 2, Based	ive because they had zero

This slide summarizes the cost-effectiveness results for the 3 types of SMBP interventions: 1) SMBP Alone, 2) SMBP with additional support, and 3) SMBP within a team-based care model.

For SMBP alone, one study indicated the intervention was **not** cost-effective based on a \$50,000 threshold. Two studies had actually indicated an increase in systolic blood pressure and are therefore considered **not** cost-effective.

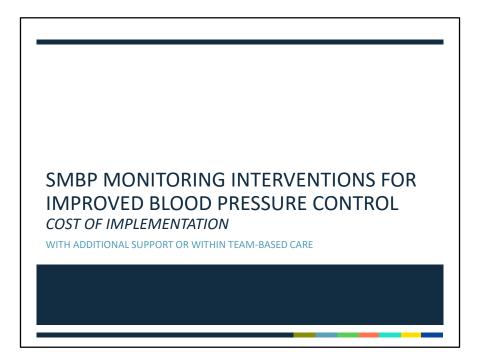
For SMBP with additional support, 4 estimates were all below the \$50,000 threshold.

In the case of SMBP within team-based care interventions, 3 estimates from 1 study indicated the intervention was **not** cost-effective and 3 estimates from 3 studies indicated the intervention **was** cost-effective. So, there was some mixed evidence here.

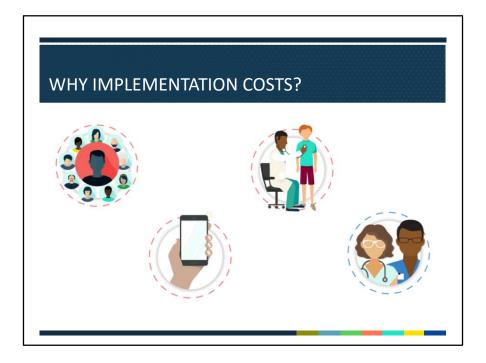
Outcome	SMBP Alone	SMBP with AS	SMBP within TBC
BP Control	Moderate	High	-
Change in mean SBP	Moderate	High	-
Change in mean DBP	Moderate	High	-
Medication Adherence	Low	Low	-
Health care costs	Cost saving	Mixed results	Cost increasing
Cost per QALY	Mixed results	Cost-effective	Mixed results
Total costs*	Cost saving	Cost increasing	Cost increasing

Overall, the Task Force found meaningful impact for blood pressure control and reducing blood pressure for both SMBP alone and with additional support. They found minimal impact in terms of medication adherence. Ultimately, the Task Force recommended SMBP with additional support based on **strong** evidence of effectiveness and SMBP alone based on **sufficient** evidence of effectiveness. As well SMBP alone is cost saving & SMBP with additional support or within a team-based care model are cost-effective.

If you're curious about the more detailed findings from the reviews, you can visit the Community Guide's website for more information.



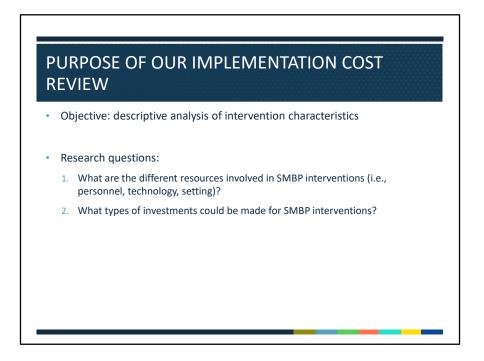
So, now we've seen the benefits of SMBP. But what does it take to implement SMBP?



Well, there is quite a lot of variation across programs (e.g., patient characteristics, healthcare personnel, information technology, and so on), which of course is to be expected.

Also, protocol and study design papers are rarely available and when they are provided, the kinds of information reported varies.

The Community Guide reviews did not capture or analyze this level of detail.



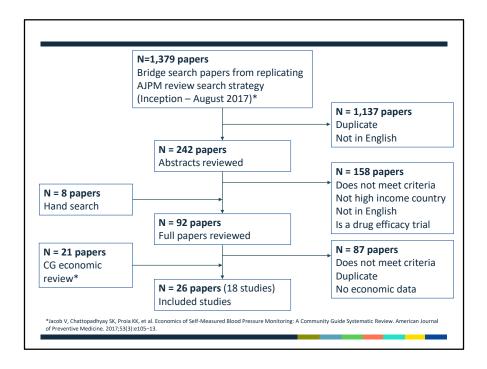
And so, to address this gap, we set out to understand what are the types of resources and costs are associated with SMBP interventions.

Our objective was to describe the intervention characteristics along with the effectiveness and economics of SMBP interventions.

And we had 2 questions:

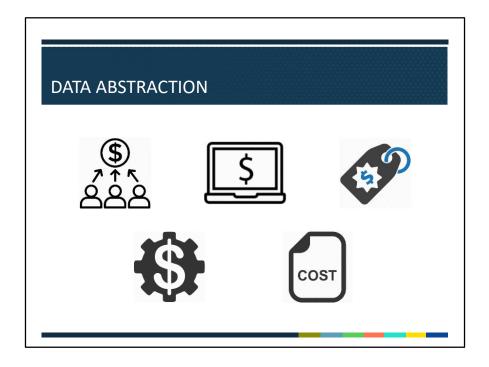
- 1. What are the different resources involved in SMBP interventions (i.e., personnel, technology, setting)?
- 2. What types of investments could be made for SMBP interventions?

We searched for studies and abstracted information that met our definition for SMBP & also reported blood pressure change and costs.



As a part of our search strategy, we incorporated the evidence from the costeffectiveness review into our analysis. We did conduct another search using their same search strategy to collect the latest evidence until August 2017. In the end, we found 18 studies.

NOTE: there were multiple papers published on the same study, but in assessing the weight of evidence, only studies were counted, not papers.



We've seen in the literature that not all studies report costs the same way. Some may combine administrative and medical costs, some may include overhead, while some simply focus on the material and supply costs.

There was a lot of variability, so in trying to understand the different types of costs, we categorized the costs into 5 "buckets:"

- 1. Labor costs and patient time, which can include the compensations for the providers and technicians, costs associated with bioinformatics, patient time, or patient and provider trainings
- Technology or equipment costs, which can include how much the blood pressure cuffs cost, web and server hosting, mobile phones, SIM cards, or telemedicine devices
- 3. Material and supply costs, which can include patient education materials, training materials, or office supplies
- 4. Implementation costs, which can include startup costs, protocol development, or developing education and training materials
- 5. Other costs that don't really fit in the other buckets, such as contracted or subscription services, inpatient/outpatient care, or prescriptions.

Characteristic	# of Studies Reporting (%)*
Additional support	
Self-management or lifestyle counseling & education	13 (72.2)
Medication counseling & education	13 (72.2)
Home visits	5 (27.8)
Case management	2 (11.1)
Feam-based care	
Physicians	4 (27.8)
Nurses	2 (11.1)

N=18

In terms of support types, most interventions with additional support included selfmanagement, lifestyle, or medication counseling & education. Some studies included home visits and case management.

Of the few studies that focused on team-based care, physicians and nurses were reported as a part of the care team. Team-based care is really meant to include multiple disciplines, such as community health workers or pharmacists. But more than that, it's about collaborative care and the different providers working together to determine a patient's treatment plan. We found that while the studies included these other professions, there wasn't a lot of the collaboration happening. More often than not, there was only one point of contact (e.g., pharmacist sending medication change requests to the primary care physician for approval). This is an area where we might want some more research.

Characteristic	# of Studies Reporting (%)*
Home monitoring blood pressure device	15 (83.3)
Telehealth/Telemedicine	15 (83.3)
Internet-based platform	13 (72.2)
Interactive phone system	4 (22.2)
Smartphone	3 (16.7)

N=18

In terms of the technology that was used in these interventions, telehealth-based interventions and those that included home monitoring blood pressure devices were the most reported.

And as you'll note at the bottom of most of these slides, most of the studies fell into multiple categories. It's not uncommon for these telehealth-based interventions to have an Internet or smartphone component as a part of the intervention.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS		
Characteristic	# of Studies Reporting (%)*	
Labor Costs and Patient Time		
Nurse	9 (50.0)	
Physician	8 (44.4)	
Pharmacist	4 (22.2)	
Patient time	2 (11.1)	
Other	5 (27.8)	
Technology/Equipment Costs		
Home blood pressure cuffs	9 (50.0)	
Telemedicine devices	8 (44.4)	
Web and/or server hosting	6 (33.3)	
Mobile phone	3 (16.7)	

So, in terms of labor costs and patient time, nurses and physicians were the most commonly reported providers in the 18 studies. While these providers were included in the interventions, they were not a part of a team-based care model. More often they were included in the additional support interventions (counseling & education).

Other labor categories reported included:

- Personnel: community health workers, nutritionists, data analysts, program managers, health program specialists, quality consultants, university faculty/staff, and research assistants
- Clerical work, time costs for relatives, leisure time lost, and healthcare personnel costs during consultation visits

In terms of technology costs, we saw that these types of technology-based interventions were very common among the included studies and so it stands to reason that the costs associated with them were reported.

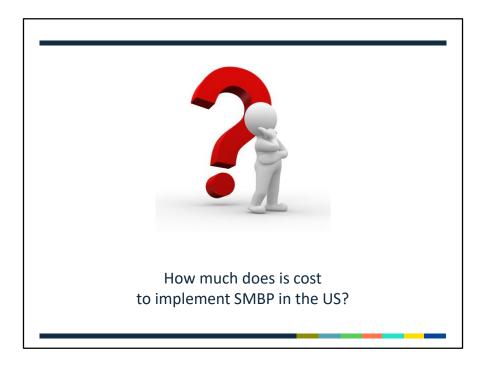
NTERVENTION COSTS, CON'T.		
Characteristic	# of Studies Reporting (%)*	
Materials/Supplies Costs		
Office supplies, printing, mailing	3 (16.7)	
Patient education materials	3 (16.7)	
Provider training materials	2 (11.1)	
Patient training materials	1 (5.6)	
mplementation Costs		
Education and training materials development	2 (11.1)	
Startup costs	2 (11.1)	
Protocol development	1 (5.6)	

Costs reported related to materials and supplies mostly came in the form of office supplies and patient education materials.

So, while labor & equipment were covered heavily, you can see, not many studies reported costs within these two categories. This is where we started to note the break down, if you will, in the ways the studies reported their costs. Very few ventured beyond the technology costs for the more "mundane" parts or resources needed for an intervention. But I would also point out that these categories and characteristics are somewhat subjective.

Characteristic	# of Studies Reporting (%)*
Other Costs	
Prescriptions/Drugs	6 (33.3)
Outpatient care	5 (27.8)
Inpatient care	4 (22.2)
Contracted services	3 (16.7)

Other costs mostly consisted of prescriptions and outpatient care. One study didn't provide a cost per patient; it only reported costs related to compensation in the form of gift cards.



So, we've looked at what resources might be needed for SMBP. But I have a quick question for everyone: what do you think it costs, in dollars per patient, to implement SMBP in the US? I have a multiple choice poll question that should show up shortly.

How much do you think it costs to implement SMBP?

\$40.20 per patient \$909 per patient \$223 per patient \$1,275 per patient

Ok, let's see what we're getting here ...

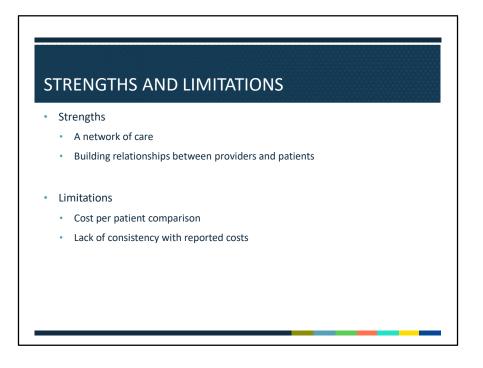
Well, you might be surprised to find out that you're all correct!!



We found the cost per patient in the US ranged from around \$32-1,275. and the medical costs ranged from \$1,590-13,494 per patient. Obviously, these are quite large windows – a lot of which is due to the intervention length (3-48 months), the personnel involved, the technology, or the scope of the intervention.

As these are still the preliminary results, we haven't converted the international costs to US dollars, but we did find evidence in Denmark, Norway, the UK, and Argentina.

And in terms of funding sources, this mostly came from grants from NIH, CMS, and the Veterans Administration.



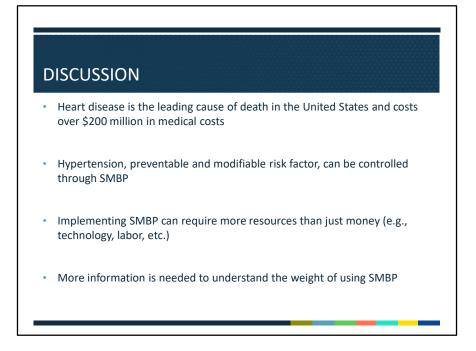
Strengths

- From the perspective of health care organizations, implementing SMBP with AS or TBC can be beneficial as it engages health care professionals to create a network of care.
- In addition to the clinical and economic benefits, could also increase patient trust and satisfaction with their health care providers.

Limitations

- One general limitation we found was the inability to do "cost per patient" comparison.
 - This was largely due to what constituted for the different types of support and the variation in what was reported. Some studies distinguished between intervention specific costs and medical costs (inpatient/outpatient care), and some only provided intervention costs (home BP machine, costs of mailing, etc.).
 - As we continue to analyze the qualitative context to the data, we hope to gain more understanding materials and resources are needed to implement SMBP.
- As well, there was a lack of consistency with how the studies categorized their costs. Some researchers might have counted the provider and patient training materials under the implementation cost category with material development. Some might have considered the office supplies under startup costs.

• However, we hope that as we continue with our analyses, we might be able to shed some light on these areas and provide public health practitioners with meaningful and useful information.



And so in summary:

- We know that heart disease has serious consequences in terms of health and medical costs.
- But we know that hypertension is a preventable and modifiable risk factor, one that SMBP can help with.
- And now we know that implementing SMBP interventions can cost anywhere between \$32-1,200 USD.

However, due to the large variation in the available evidence on the types of costs and amounts, more research and information is needed to help public health practitioners and patients understand the weight of using SMBP to manage their health.

In terms of next steps, we will continue to conduct our analyses to see where the connections can be made with the resources and the costs reported, particularly with how these play out according to the different types of SMBP. And we're aiming to publish our results in a peer-reviewed journal. As we move through the project, we hope to develop technical assistance for implementing SMBP for different users.



- Wall HK, Ritchey MD, Gillespie C, Omura JD, Jamal A, George MG. Vital signs: recent prevalence of key cardiovascular disease risk factors for Million Hearts 2022, 2011-2016. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2018;67:983–991.
- Fryar CD, Ostchega Y, Hales CM, Zhang G, Kruszon-Moran D. Hypertension Prevalence and Control Among Adults: United States, 2015–2016. National Center for Health Statistics Data Brief, no 289. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics; 2017.
- Farley TA, Dalal MA, Mostashari F, Frieden TR. Deaths preventable in the United States by improvements in the use of clinical preventive services. *Am J Prev Med*. 2010;38(6):600–609
- Law MR, Morris JK, Wald NJ. Use of blood pressure lowering drugs in the prevention of cardiovascular disease: meta-analysis of 147 randomised trials in the context of expectations from prospective epidemiological studies. BMJ 2009; 338.



At this time, we'll take questions, but first we'll check to see if any questions have come in through the Q&A box.

If we have questions ask the questions posed by the attendees to the presenter

*If we do not have questions, proceed with the script below *

Since it appears that we have no questions at this time from the audience, we have some questions that we wanted to ask that might be insightful to our participants.

Questions:

You mentioned SMBP alone, with additional support, and team-based care in this presentation. Are there any other forms of SMBP?

Great question. So, I touched on the area of interactive digital interventions in the beginning this presentation (as a part of additional support). The Community Guide has researched the use of electronic devices to receive personalized and automated guidance on blood pressure self-management by patients with hypertension. They recommended it with sufficient evidence back in 2017. However, they did note SMBP as a potential influencer on the effectiveness of digital interventions. There's some more work that needs to be done in this area, but that is another "form," so to speak, of SMBP.

Aside from cost, are there any other considerations I should keep in mind when implementing SMBP?

Oh, absolutely! What I presented today are really from the implementer's, or provider's, side. There's always the patient side to health care, right? So, oftentimes a patient may need to purchase the blood pressure monitoring device on their own. While these devices are not inherently expensive, they do incur a cost. With that in mind, insurance coverage for SMBP is not universal – it varies by state and individual insurance plans. Traditional fee-for-service models often reimburse only for office-based visits and services, so things done at the home are not typically covered. I suggest implementers or providers look to Medicare and Medicaid, or even flexible spending accounts, when speaking with their patients to see how one can reduce this patient-level barrier or burden. Million Hearts has some great resources in this area – highly recommend viewers check out their website.



Next, please stay with us for two short poll questions.

Please allow a few seconds for the poll to pop up on your screen. We will pause for a few moments after the question is presented to give you time to answer. One moment everyone.

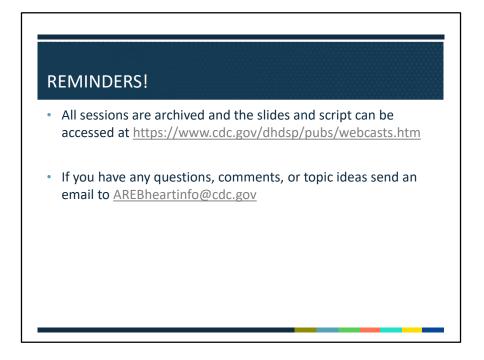
Moderator present poll question. Make sure to read the following after presenting each.

The [first, second] question should be showing, it read [read question and potential answers]

Please respond with the appropriate answer at this time.

The level of information was Too basic About right Beyond my needs

The information presented was helpful to me. Yes Somewhat No not at all



Thank you for your participation!

As a reminder, all sessions are archived and the slides and script can be accessed at our Division website at the link shown. Today's slides will be available in about 3 weeks.

If you have any ideas for future topics or questions, please feel free to contact us at the listed email address on this slide.



Our next Coffee Break is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12th and will be focused on Building Statewide CHW Workforce Infrastructure.

Thank you for joining us. Have a terrific day, everyone. This concludes today's call.