UT Southwestern
Executive Summary

UT**Southwestern**
Medical Center

This report presents results of a systematic, data-driven community health needs assessment of population health of the Dallas-Fort Worth region – the fourth-largest and second-fastest-growing metropolitan area in the US.

The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UT Southwestern) engaged in this effort in 2016 and 2017 as part of the University of Texas Collaboration on Population Health Innovation and Improvement (UT- CoPHII). UT CoPHII is a system-wide collaboration with leaders from the UT System and each of the 9 component medical schools and health science centers across the state. Each institution completed a needs assessment and developed a strategic plan designed to improve health in its catchment area.

UT Southwestern's catchment is the 9,279 square-mile area comprised of 13 North Texas counties: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Hood, Hunt, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise. With a majority-minority population of 6.7 million (28% Hispanic, 14.7% African American, 49.4% White), our catchment is the largest metropolitan area in the Southern US and in Texas. The region faces significant challenges that imperil residents' ability to obtain and maintain healthy lives. Approximately one person in seven (14.8%) lives in a household with income below the federal poverty level. One fifth (21.1%) of the total population has no health insurance. Notably, some population subgroups, including non-English speakers, African Americans, Hispanics, and those with limited educational attainment, face significantly higher rates of un-insurance and poverty.

More than 10,000 community residents from across our catchment provided data for this report. To ascertain and describe prevailing health concerns and health disparities facing North Texas, we undertook a three-step data collection process that included: (a) conducting focus groups with members of UT Southwestern's Community Advisory Panel, which is diverse in age, sex, and race/ethnicity; (b) analyzing data from UT Southwestern's Community Research Registry, our ongoing assessment of health needs of English- and Spanish- speaking residents of our catchment; and (c) conducting a comprehensive environmental scan of existing population health needs assessments, intervention programs, and publicly available and locally warehoused databases. Analyses of these data identified the region's six most pressing population health priorities, listed in Table 1.

Table 1. UT Southwestern Population Health Priorities
1. Chronic disease and multi-morbidity
2. Expanding access for underserved populations
3. Preventive screening and early detection
4. Community partnerships, service integration
5. Behavioral/mental health
6. Navigation and care coordination

We then turned our attention to developing a strategic plan designed to improve population health across North Texas. In this process, we critically assessed and considered both strengths and weaknesses in UT Southwestern's population health infrastructure, faculty and staff, technology, and community-facing efforts. To underpin the proposed population health initiatives, we identified two cross-cutting themes of our efforts (see Chapter 9):

1. Multi-health system, regional representation. Advance capacities of UT Southwestern investigators, administrators, and health care providers to conduct population health research & deliver population health interventions across multiple regional health systems and a broader multi-county catchment area.

2. Community-engagement and team science. Advance capacities of UT Southwestern investigators, community organizations, and community-based providers to systematically incorporate culturally and methodologically sound community-engaged and team-science population health research. This theme encompasses:

· **Community organization partnerships.** Expand and sustain partnerships with (a) community organizations, (b) community-based health care providers, and (c) UT Southwestern investigators to facilitate population health research and coordination of care

· **Community-member participation.** Enhance fair and equitable opportunities for community members' participation in population health research.

· **Team science.** Promote multidisciplinary collaboration to accelerate population health discoveries and to translate discoveries into population health interventions and real-world clinical practice.

Table 2 lists the proposed population health initiatives we selected to highlight UT Southwestern's strengths, areas of current growth, strategic vision, and health priorities. If initiated, they will address the major health priorities of the region (see Chapter 5) as well as gaps in infrastructure, technology, and workforce (see Chapters 6 and 7), thereby enhancing UT Southwestern's capacity to improve population health across North Texas.

Table 2. UT Southwestern Proposed Population Health Initiatives
1. Establish Population Health Research Center
2. Increase and Improve Population Health Workforce
3. Develop Texas Online Population Health Assessment Tool (TOPHAT)
4. Develop, Implement Community based Depression Screening
5. Expand, Disseminate Community Research Registry

Submitted by: Sandi L. Pruitt, Celette Sugg Skinner, Ethan A. Halm on July 21, 2017