

# AHRQ's Support of the USPSTF

## The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

The [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force \(USPSTF or Task Force\)](#) is a volunteer group of national experts in primary care, prevention, and evidence-based medicine. The Task Force works to improve the health of all people nationwide by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services such as:

- **Screenings**
- **Behavioral counseling**
- **Preventive medications**

These recommendations only apply to people who have no signs or symptoms of the specific disease or condition that the screening, counseling, or preventive medication targets. Recommendations address only services offered in the primary care setting or services referred by a primary care clinician. The Task Force makes recommendations to help primary care clinicians and patients decide together whether a preventive service is right for a patient's needs.



AHRQ provides the resources—scientific, administrative, and dissemination support—for the Task Force to make scientifically independent recommendations about clinical preventive services.

## The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

The [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\)](#) is an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). AHRQ's mission is to produce evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, and more affordable, and to work within HHS and with other partners to make sure that the evidence is understood and used. The Public Health Service Act authorizes and requires AHRQ to convene the USPSTF and to provide scientific, administrative, and dissemination support. Specifically, the USPSTF program within AHRQ's [Center for Evidence and Practice Improvement \(CEPI\)](#) is charged with providing this support to the USPSTF.

## How AHRQ Supports the USPSTF

To support the Task Force, the USPSTF Program:

- **Assists with day-to-day operations**
- **Coordinates the development of comprehensive evidence reports**
- **Supports the Task Force in the consistent and transparent application of its methods**
- **Provides assistance with the promotion and dissemination of Task Force materials and recommendations**

AHRQ also supports the Task Force by working with research organizations to synthesize high-quality evidence for the Task Force to use when determining its recommendations.