How providing primary care to Ledyard and save taxpayer dollars, build the economy and make Ledyard healthier

Lessons from our movement

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## Our Challenge: US Health Care is a hot mess

Life expectancy

46<sup>th</sup> in the world

Infant mortality

•50th in the world

Health
Disparities

Life Expectancy: Black Americans 4.5 years shorter than white Americans. 11 years shorter than Asian Americans

Infant Mortality: Black Americans three times greater than white Americans

#### And it's crazy expensive



#### \$5 trillion in 2023

- 19.7% of GDP
- TWICE the average cost of other developed nations
- Rises 4.9% per year
- \$15,000 per person per year
- Commercial insurance \$9000 pp/\$25,592 per family per year



#### Communities

- •\$150 million for every community of 10,000 people The town budget for Scituate, RI, population about 10,000, was \$43.8 million in 2025
- •\$213+million for Ledyard
- •The 2026-2027 budget was \$70 million

# The primary care triple superpower

## Primary care improves health, reduces disparities and lowers costs when everyone has it

- By giving people an affordable option when they are sick (instead of the emergency room).
- By delivering effective prevention.
- By helping people with chronic disease get the treatments and prevention they need.

## Too few Americans have primary care

No more than 43 percent of the US population has a meaningful longitudinal primary care relationship

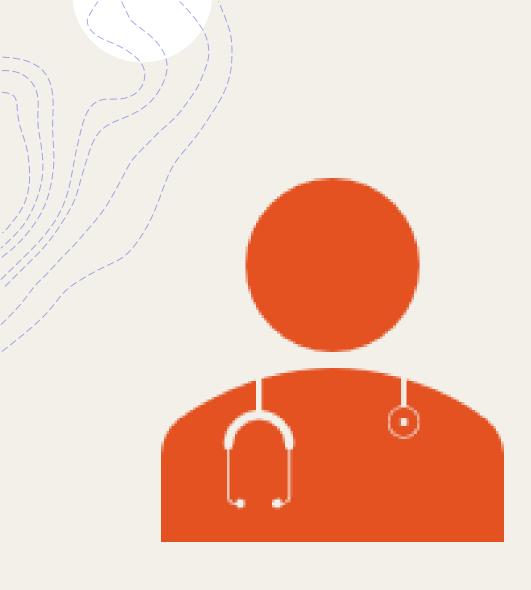
Only 65.7 percent of Medicare beneficiaries had a PCP visit within the last year (2019)



- https://www.acgme.org/globalassets/pfassets/publicationsbooks/2021-2022\_acgme\_\_databook\_document.pdf
- Fitzgerald M, Gunja MZ, Tikkanen R. Primary care in high-income countries: how the US compares. Commonwealth Fund. Published March 2022.
- Barnett ML, Zhao X, Fine AJ, et al. Trends in outpatient care for Medicare beneficiaries and implications for primary care, 2000-2019. Ann Intern Med. 2021;174(12):1658-1665.

Primary care is affordable – it costs no more than other essential services cities and towns provide for their own residents

- + About 3.9 percent of the total health care spend
  - + \$585 per person per year
  - + (The cost for advanced patient-focused team-supported primary care is likely \$1000-1200 per person per year)
- + Similar to the costs of other services cities and towns provide for all their residents
  - + Police and fire protection about **\$525** per person per year
  - + Water and sewer -- **\$400** per person per year
  - + Roads -- **\$622** per person per year
  - + Elementary and secondary education -- \$2809 per person ( not per student) per year



### What can Ledyard do?

- + Study and report on Ledyard's primary care resources yearly
- + Help our students become the primary care clinicians of the future
- + Create local scholarships with obligations for local practice
- + Redo the purchase of health insurance for public employees
- + Fund primary care for the uninsured

#### How can Ledyard get started?

- +Start a local workgroup
  - + We'll help!



## Primary Care for All Americans



### +<u>www.primarycaref</u> <u>orallamericans.org</u>

+Join us! +Volunteer! **FOR ALL** PRIMARY **AMERICANS** CARE



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