



Miami Beach Community Health Center earns national recognition for commitment to improve high blood pressure

American Heart Association and American Medical Association announce annual list of physician practices and health systems receiving a Target: BP™ award for their commitment to prioritize blood pressure control within the communities they serve

Miami, Fla., November 14, 2018 – Miami Beach Community Health Center, Inc. (MBCHC) is recognized as a leader in the national effort to get people's blood pressure under control and reduce the number of Americans who have heart attacks and strokes each year.

The American Heart Association (AHA) and American Medical Association (AMA) named MBCHC as one of 802 physician practices and health systems nationwide recognized for a commitment to help patients improve blood pressure control through this year's Target: BP Recognition awards.

Launched in 2015, [Target: BP](#) is a national initiative between the AHA and AMA aimed at addressing the growing burden of high blood pressure in the U.S.

More than 1,600 physician practices and health systems nationwide have joined Target: BP™, sharing a common goal to reduce the number of adult patients with uncontrolled blood pressure and improve health outcomes

associated with heart disease.

“For the second year, MBCHC is pleased to be recognized for supporting the campaign’s call for action and the urgency of addressing high blood pressure by achieving blood pressure control rates at or above 70 percent within our patient population,” said Trudy Pacheco, Director of Grant and Project Development.

Of the 103 million Americans with high blood pressure, less than half of them have it controlled to a healthy level. This is despite the fact that high blood pressure can often be managed effectively when patients work with their physician to create and follow a treatment plan. No single risk factor has more impact on the nation’s death rates from cardiovascular disease than high blood pressure.

“Although we have the tools to easily treat high blood pressure, many patients face a variety of barriers making it difficult to successfully manage the condition. That’s why the American Heart Association and American Medical Association created the Target: BP initiative - to help bring patients and physicians together to successfully get blood pressure under control, and help patients keep it controlled,” said AMA President Barbara L. McAneny, M.D. “We applaud the physicians who are already working hard to control their patients’ blood pressure, and we will continue to urge more physician practices, health systems and patients to join this effort to prioritize blood pressure control and increase the national blood pressure control rate. Together, we will be able to save many more lives and improve health outcomes for patients throughout the nation.”

"A driving force behind Target: BP’s goal of improving cardiovascular health is the physician and patient partnership," said AHA President Ivor Benjamin,

M.D., FAHA. "We are pleased to see more and more practices prioritize blood pressure control and collaborate with their patients to achieve the program's goal of reducing heart disease and strokes in their communities."

MBCHC, along with all other practices and health systems being recognized, will be featured in upcoming Target: BP materials. This includes appearing in national journal ads, on TargetBP.org, and the Target: BP Wall of Recognition that will be displayed at AMA and AHA events throughout the year.

About Miami Beach Community Health Center: Since 1977, [Miami Beach Community Health Center](http://MiamiBeachCommunityHealthCenter.org) has been dedicated to providing quality medical care to the uninsured and underinsured in South Florida and turns no patient away for inability to pay. Visit www.mbchc.org for more information.

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