

1 IN 2
AMERICAN ADULTS HAVE
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE



Only about **20%** of people with high blood pressure have their condition under control.



REFERENCE: American Heart Association

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www.oneontaymca.org/programs/chronic-disease-prevention/

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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
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**TAKE ACTION TO
IMPROVE
HEART HEALTH**

Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program
Oneonta Family YMCA



If you are living with high blood pressure, taking action to keep it well-controlled will minimize your risk for complications like stroke, heart attack, and even death.

High blood pressure, which makes the heart work harder than it should with each beat, is especially dangerous because it often has no warning signs and usually lasts a lifetime once it develops.

The simple process of checking and recording your blood pressure at least twice a month over a period of four months has been shown to lower blood pressure in many people with high blood pressure.

This forms the basis for the YMCA's **Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program**, an evidence-based program that features personalized support as you develop the habit of routinely self-monitoring your blood pressure, tips for maintaining your cardiovascular health, and nutrition education seminars.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Participants will work with trained Healthy Heart Ambassadors for the duration of the four-month program. Just a few check-ins per month can yield big results. You will:

- Take your own blood pressure at least two times per month
- Attend two meetings with a YMCA Healthy Heart Ambassador per month – to check in and learn more about how you can
- Attend monthly nutrition education

You will record your blood pressure readings using an easy-to-use tracking tool of your own choosing. As a participant of the BPSM program we will provide you with an at home blood pressure monitor.



A SMALL INVESTMENT PRODUCES BIG RESULTS

The YMCA's Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program helps participants:

- Reduce their blood pressure by identifying patterns and trends on which to take action
- Better manage their blood pressure over time
- Increase their awareness of triggers that elevate blood pressure
- Improve their knowledge of heart-healthy eating habits
- Enrich communication with their health care provider by sharing self-monitoring results

TO QUALIFY, YOU MUST:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be diagnosed with high blood pressure
- Not have experienced a recent cardiac event
- Not have atrial fibrillation or other arrhythmias
- Not be at risk for lymphedema

YMCA membership is not required to participate in the program.

PROGRAM FEATURES

HEALTHY HEART AMBASSADORS

Certified Healthy Heart Ambassadors will train you on the proper technique for taking your own blood pressure readings accurately, assist you in identifying trends and patterns in your readings over time, and provide ongoing support as you work to make blood pressure self-monitoring a habit.

CHECK IN MEETINGS

Twice a month you will participant in a 60 minute group meeting with our Healthy Heart Ambassadors to support you as you continue to better manage your blood pressure. The first 30 minutes they will take participants blood pressure and discuss ways to help manage your blood pressure. The second half of the meeting will be dedicated to Nutrition Education.

To ensure you feel supported throughout the program, you will also receive weekly emails, calls or text messages from a Healthy Heart Ambassador.

NUTRITION EDUCATION SEMINARS

Seminars will highlight how food is related to blood pressure management and will provide you with the knowledge and skills to make heart-healthy choices. Seminar topics include reducing sodium intake and heart healthy eating. Each 30-minute seminar will also offer an opportunity for you to take your own blood pressure with coaching on proper technique from an on-site Healthy Heart Ambassador.