

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH CHALLENGES IN MISSOURI



Health doesn't begin in a physician's office or a hospital. Keeping Missourians healthy requires they live in an environment that is conducive to good health. These factors — the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age — are known as [social determinants of health](#). The multidimensional nature of SDOH reach far beyond poverty and require a systemwide approach to effectively moderate their effects on health outcomes.

Advances in health care coding are beginning to help caregivers understand the social problems that influence health. However, the social structures to address these problems — from access to nutritious foods, safe housing, economic security, and strong family and community support systems — are too often outside of health care providers' direct influence.

Addressing the root causes of these community-based problems will require coordinated federal, state, local and private resource allocation targeted to the most at-risk populations and communities.

Social Determinants of Health:

The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.

— World Health Organization



The Missouri Foundation for Health and MHA have partnered to develop a website, exploreMOhealth.org, to assist stakeholders' understanding of SDOH at the local level to improve resource allocation and encourage community partnerships to identify and address these social factors.

Frequency of ICD-10-CM SDOH Code Use for Missouri Residents by Category and Two Most Frequent Diagnoses, October 2015 - March 2018 (n=140,417)

