



# HEALTH EQUITY WEEK 2023

## Health Equity Week 2023 Tip Sheet | Thursday, April 6

### Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

#### What are SDoH and what are they not?

Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) are the social systems that govern the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, and work, and act in concert to either create unearned disadvantages or opportunities for optimal health and wellbeing.

These upstream societal factors of health should not be conflated with individual social risk or social needs that we may elicit from patients and clients at point-of-care, such as transportation, food, or housing needs.

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#### Why are SDoH important?

The major social systems in our society, be it health care, housing, education, or criminal justice, have been designed often with a singular cultural perspective that serves to privilege some populations and disadvantage others.

For example, historical and contemporary laws and policies not only govern where certain populations live, creating segregated access to education and employment opportunities, but they also create differential treatment at school, work, hospitals, or within a court of law. All of these factors create a significant impact on everyone's health by creating disparities in access to high quality health care and health outcomes.

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#### What can you do?

- Learn about the factors that influence patients' health outside of the hospital walls.
- Learn more about Penn's available resources:
  - o [The Penn Medicine Social Needs Response Team \(SNRT\)](#) is a virtual call center that supports Penn patients, students, and the wider Philadelphia community with access to resources to address social needs. [Click here](#) for a Staff Quick Guide to the SNRT.
  - o [Resource Connects](#) is a network of community-based resources and programs to support you and your patients. The Resource Connects platform can be used as a tool to find, refer, and communicate directly with community-based organizations that provide social services.
- Read the Social Determinants for Health 201 for Health Care [here](#).
- Read about current leading health indicators [here](#).

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#### Register for Events!



In celebration of Health Equity Week, visit the [Health Equity Week website](#) to view a list of events focused on advancing health equity through innovative solutions.