



# Data for Health Equity: Applying Data on the Social Determinants of Health



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President, Center for Open Data Enterprise

# About CODE and Its Programs

Our mission: Putting open data into action for public good

## ROUNDTABLES



Interactive convenings for data providers and data users.

## RESOURCES



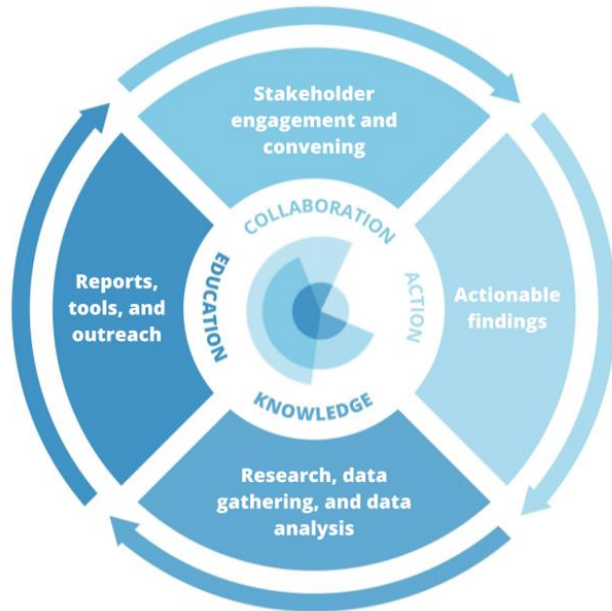
Action-oriented resources to help government, industry, and the public utilize data.

## RESEARCH



Innovative research on the applications and management of publicly available data.

# CODE's Theory of Change



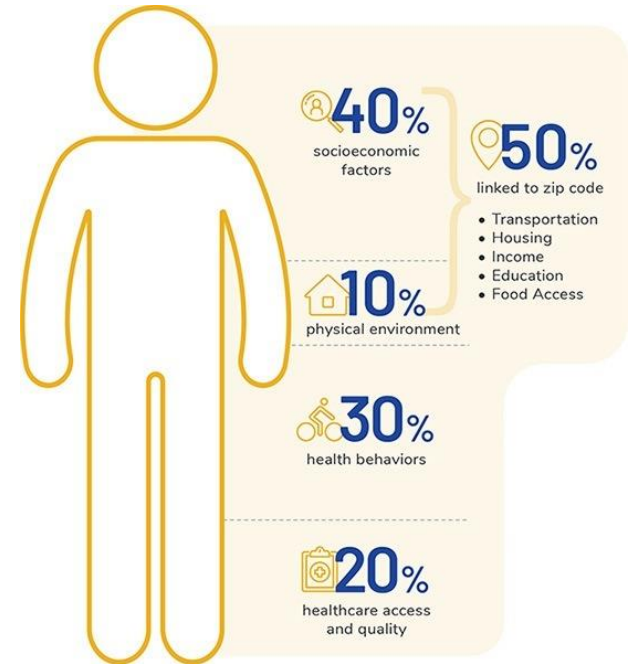
- **Collaboration, Action, Knowledge, Education**
- Focused on *how* data can be used
- Stakeholder engagement as an essential ingredient
- Increasingly focused on tools and resources for data action

# Social Determinants of Health

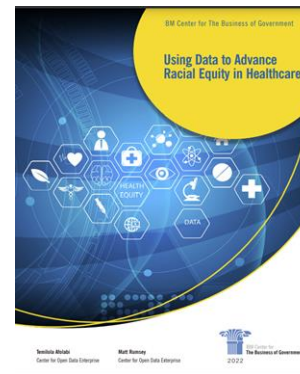
Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

# Social Determinants of Health

The social determinants of health can account for up to 80% of outcomes.



# CODE's SDOH work



Who we have worked with



# The Social Determinants of Health

Economic Stability	Neighborhood and Physical Environment	Education	Food	Community and Social Context	Health Care System
Employment	Housing	Literacy	Hunger	Social integration	Health coverage
Income	Transportation	Language	Access to healthy options	Support systems	Provider availability
Expenses	Safety	Early childhood education		Community engagement	Provider linguistic and cultural competency
Debt	Parks	Vocational training		Discrimination	Quality of care
Medical bills	Playgrounds	Higher education		Stress	
Support	Walkability				
	Zip code / geography				

## Health Outcomes

Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations

Source: <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/beyond-health-care-the-role-of-social-determinants-in-promoting-health-and-health-equity/>

# SDOH, Climate, and Health Equity

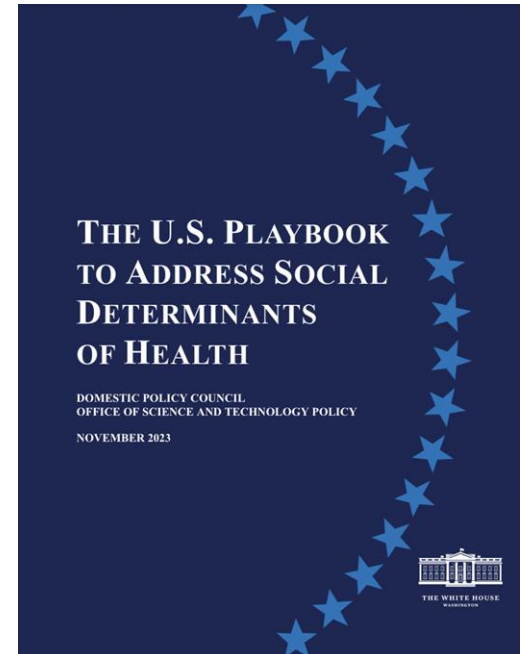


Climate change is  
a threat multiplier.



# The US Playbook to Address SDOH

- Released in November 2023
- **Vision: to enable every American to lead a full and healthy life within their community**
- 3 Pillars:
  - Expand *Data Gathering and Sharing*
  - Support *Flexible Funding* to Address Social Needs
  - Support *Backbone Organizations*
- Available at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SDOH-Playbook-3.pdf>



# The US Playbook to Address SDOH

- Expand *Data Gathering and Sharing* to advance collection and interoperability among health care, public health, social care services, and other data systems to address SDOH across federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels.
- Support *Flexible Funding* to address social needs and align investments across sectors to finance community infrastructure, offer grants for communities to address HRSNs, and encourage coordinating resources to improve health outcomes
- Support *Backbone Organizations* and other infrastructure to link health care systems to community-based organizations

# The Context for Addressing SDOH

- Biden Administration Actions
  - Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government
  - Executive Order 14091, Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government
  - American Rescue Plan (ARP) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
  - Thriving Communities Network
  - Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis
  - U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence: Strategies for Action
  - National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health
  - White House Initiative on Women's Health Research
  - National Mental Health Strategy

# The National Mental Health Strategy (White House Release March 2022)

- **Strengthen System Capacity**

- Invest in proven programs that bring providers into behavioral health.
- Pilot new approaches to train a diverse group of paraprofessionals.
- Build a national certification program for peer specialists.
- Promote the mental well-being of our frontline health workforce.
- Launch the “988” crisis response line and strengthen community-based crisis response.
- Expand the availability of evidence-based community mental health services.
- Invest in research in new practice methods.

# The National Mental Health Strategy

- **Connect Americans to Care**

- Expand and strengthen parity.
- Integrate mental health and substance use treatment into primary care settings.
- Improve veterans' access to same-day mental health care.
- Expand access to tele- and virtual mental health care options.
- Expand access to mental health support in schools and colleges and universities.
- Embed and co-locate mental health and substance use providers into community-based settings.
- Increase behavioral health navigation resources.

# The National Mental Health Strategy

- **Support Americans by Creating Healthy Environments**
  - Strengthen children's privacy and ban targeted advertising for children online
  - Institute stronger online protections for young people, including prioritizing safety by design standards and practices for online platforms, products, and services.
  - Stop discriminatory algorithmic decision-making that limits opportunities for young Americans.
  - Invest in research on social media's mental harms.
  - Expand early childhood and school-based intervention services and supports.
  - Set students up for success.
  - Increase mental health resources for justice-involved populations.
  - Train social and human services professional in basic mental health skills.

# SDOH Data Ecosystem

- Population Level

- HHS
- The Census Bureau
- Department of Labor
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Education
- State and Local Governments

- Individual Level

- Physicians
- Clinical Trials
- Health Networks
- Schools
- Community-based Organizations

# Sample Determinants and Data Sources

- **Economic Stability**

- Determinant: Access to employment
- Data Source: Department of Labor Unemployment Statistics

- **Neighborhood and Physical Environment**

- Determinant: Access to transportation
- Data Source: Department of Transportation data on proximity to public transportation

- **Education**

- Determinant: Early childhood education
- Data Source: Head Start early childhood education enrollment data

- **Food and Nutrition**

- Determinants: Access to fresh fruits and vegetables
- Data Source: WIC and SNAP rates by neighborhood

- **Climate and Environment**

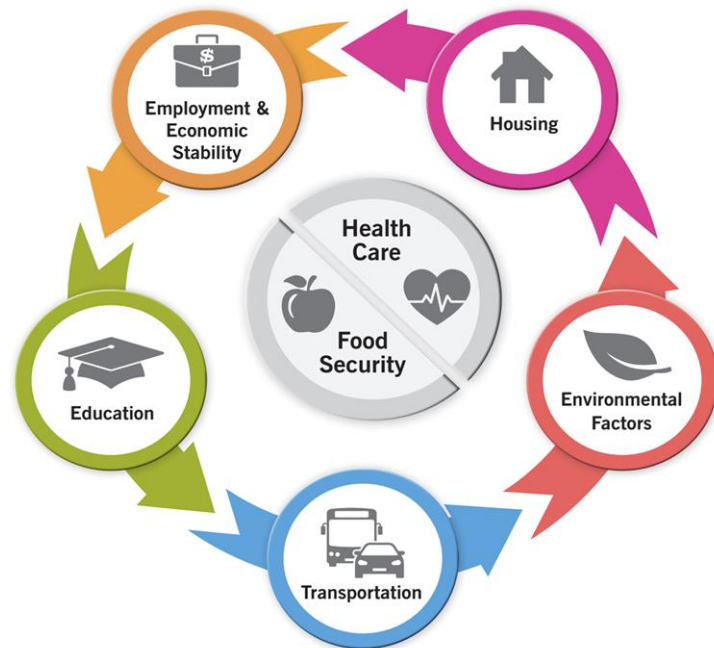
- Determinant: Exposure to power plant emissions
- Data Source: Department of Energy power plant data



# Sample Determinants and Data Sources

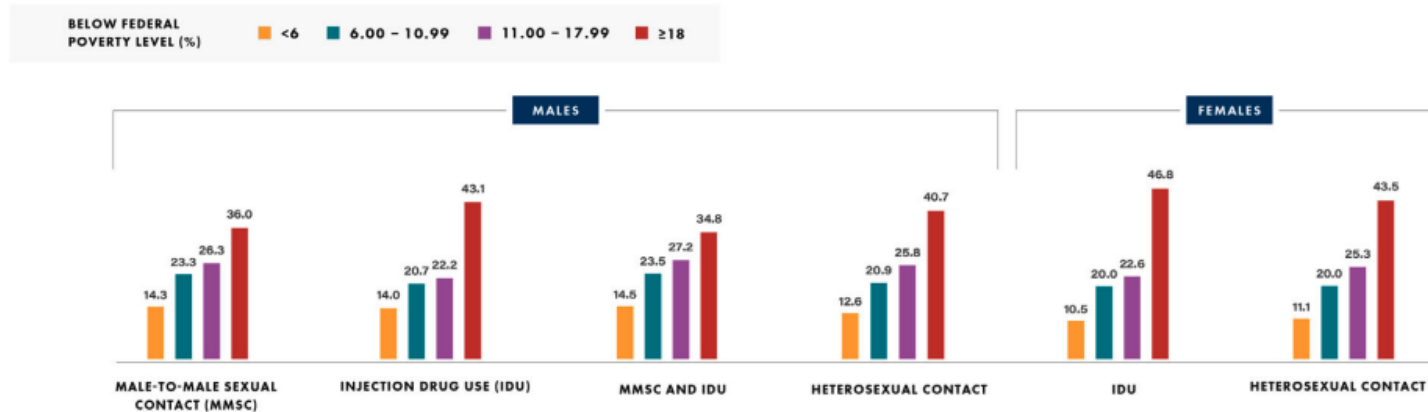
Unmet social needs negatively impact health outcomes. Addressing SDOH can lead to improved health equity.

- Food insecurity - higher levels of diabetes, hypertension, and heart failure
- Housing instability - lower treatment adherence
- Transportation barriers - missed appointments, delayed care, lower medication compliance



# SDOH and Health Equity

**Figure 3. Diagnoses of HIV infection among adults, by transmission category, sex at birth, and federal poverty status, 2019—census tract level, United States and Puerto Rico**

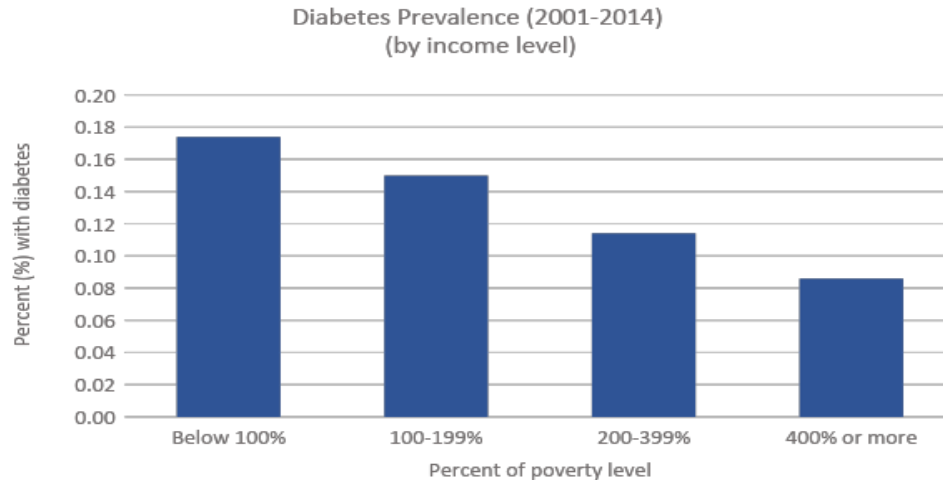


Source:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-supplemental-report-vol-27-2.pdf>

*SDOH linked to higher HIV rates and lower levels of care: Poverty, Household income, Income inequality, Lower levels of education, and Insurance coverage*

# SDOH, Diabetes, and Health Equity

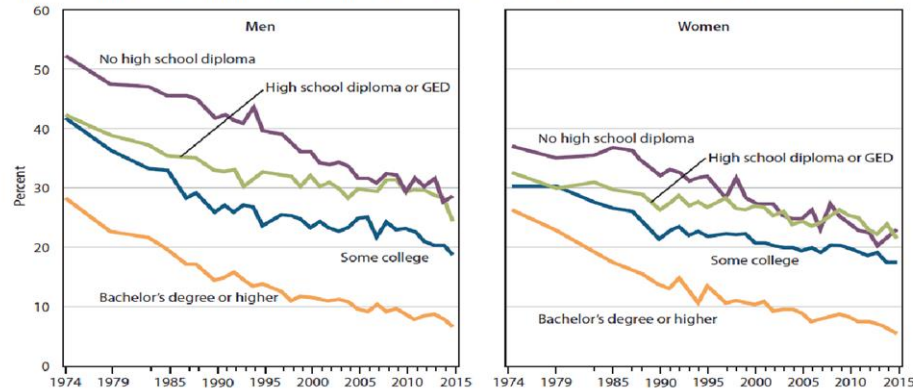
## Diabetes Prevalence by Income Level



- Data collected from 2011-2014
- Clear trend correlating diabetes with income level
- **2x relative risk difference between highest and lowest income categories**

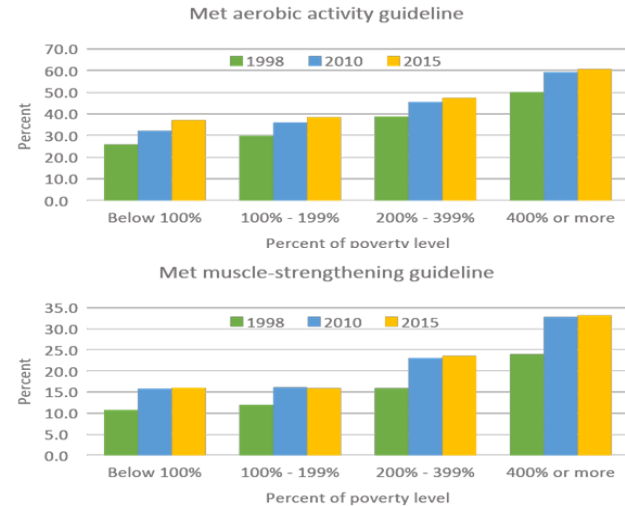
# Healthy Behaviors, SDOH, and Health Equity

Figure 10. Cigarette smoking among adults aged 25 years and over, by sex and education level: United States, 1974–2015



NOTES: Current cigarette smokers are defined as ever smoking 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and now smoke every day or some days. Educational categories shown are for 1997 and subsequent years. GED is General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma. Prior to 1997, the educational categories were less than 12 years completed, 12 years completed, 13–15 years, 16 years or more. Estimates are age-adjusted. See data table for Figure 10.

SOURCE: NCHS, *Health, United States, 2016*, Table 48. Data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).



**Education Level Impact on Smoking and Exercise:** Smoking steadily down over time in all categories (but higher at lower education levels); Exercise steadily up over time in all categories (but lower at lower income levels)

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2016.htm#057>, ZeOmega

# Geography, SDOH and Health Equity

Two “work-friends” share similar profiles. Both high-school grads (with some college) and both have two kids. The only material difference is where they live (~ 5 miles apart)... *Does that matter?*



**Mary  
Mitchell**

## Profile

Age/Gender:	35 yo / Female	
Vocation:		CSR at Cable Co.
Annual Income:	\$37,000	
Home Location:	Risk Area: 2	

Income

Mod. Median



**Nora  
Newton**

Age/Gender:	35 yo / Female	
Vocation:		CSR at Cable Co.
Annual Income:	\$37,000	
Home Location:	Risk Area: 4	

Income

Low Median

## Current Health Status

- BMI=28 (overweight)
- Borderline HTN
- Moderately active

## Home Location



- BMI=28 (overweight)
- Borderline HTN
- Moderately active

# Geography, SDOH and Health Equity

## Divergence of health behaviors and outcomes

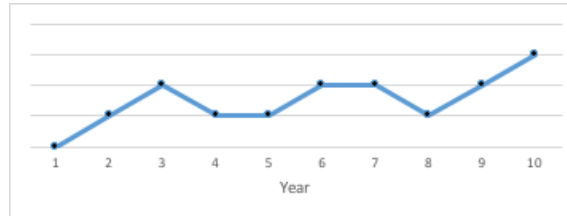


Mary Mitchell

### Baseline Health Status

- BMI=28 (overweight)
- Borderline HTN
- Moderately active

### 10-Year Health Trend



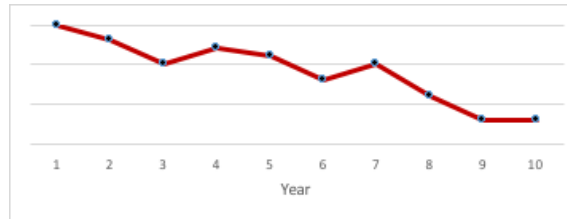
### 10-Year Health Status

- Weight under control
- Adherent to HTN meds
- Moderately active



Nora Newton

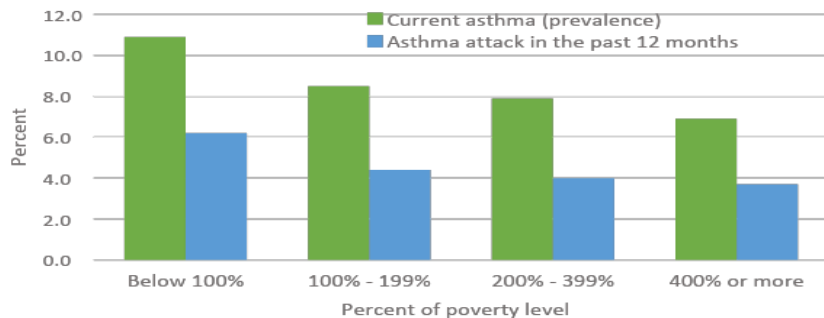
- BMI=28 (overweight)
- Borderline HTN
- Moderately active



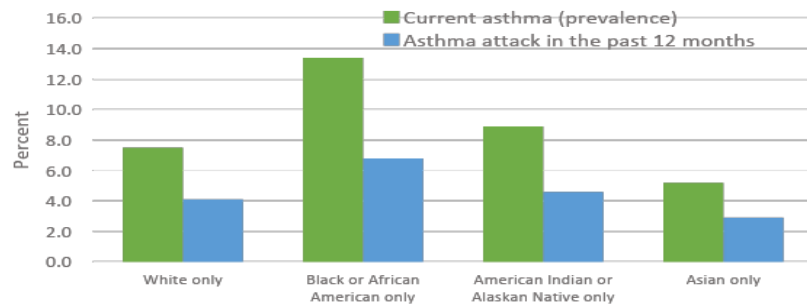
- Obese
- Chronic HTN
- Pre-diabetes

# Race and the SDOH: Asthma and Health Equity

Asthma among children under age 18  
(by income level)



Asthma among children under age 18  
(by race)



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2016.htm#035>, ZeOmega

**Asthma Prevalence and Severity:** Clear correlation between income level and asthma (both prevalence and severity); African American – 2x higher prevalence than White or Asian categories

# Racism and Mental Health

- A large scale [meta-analysis](#) found that perceived discrimination has a significant negative effect on mental health
- BIPOCs who [experienced racism](#) also experienced: depression; stress; emotional distress; anxiety; PTSD; suicidal thoughts

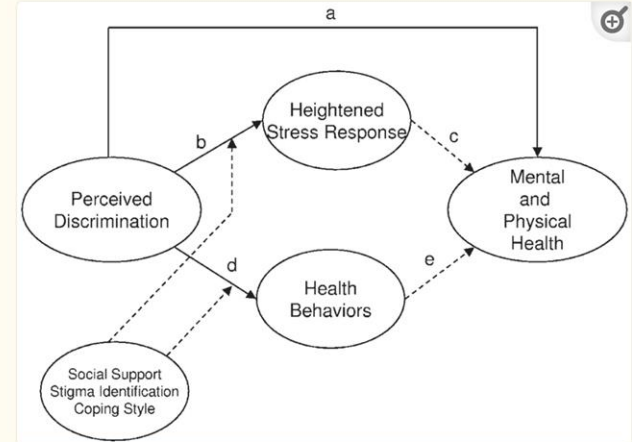


Figure 1

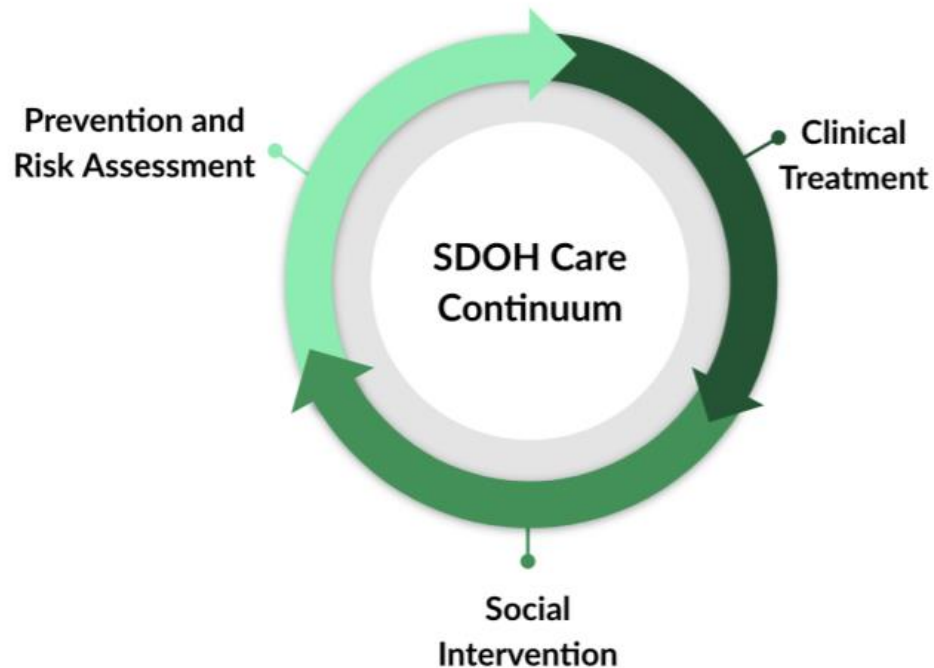
Pathways by which perceived discrimination influences health outcomes. Solid lines indicate analyzed pathways; dashed lines represent pathways hypothesized by past research.



# Kaiser Family Foundation: Race, Mental Health, and the Pandemic (2022)

- Rates of death by suicide are rising faster among people of color compared to their white counterparts [though still roughly half the rate for whites].
- The recent rise in deaths associated with drug overdoses has disproportionately affected people of color.
- Overall rates of mental illness and substance use disorder are lower for people of color compared to white people but may be underdiagnosed among people of color.
- People of color have experienced worsening mental health during the pandemic.
- People of color face disproportionate barriers to accessing mental health care.

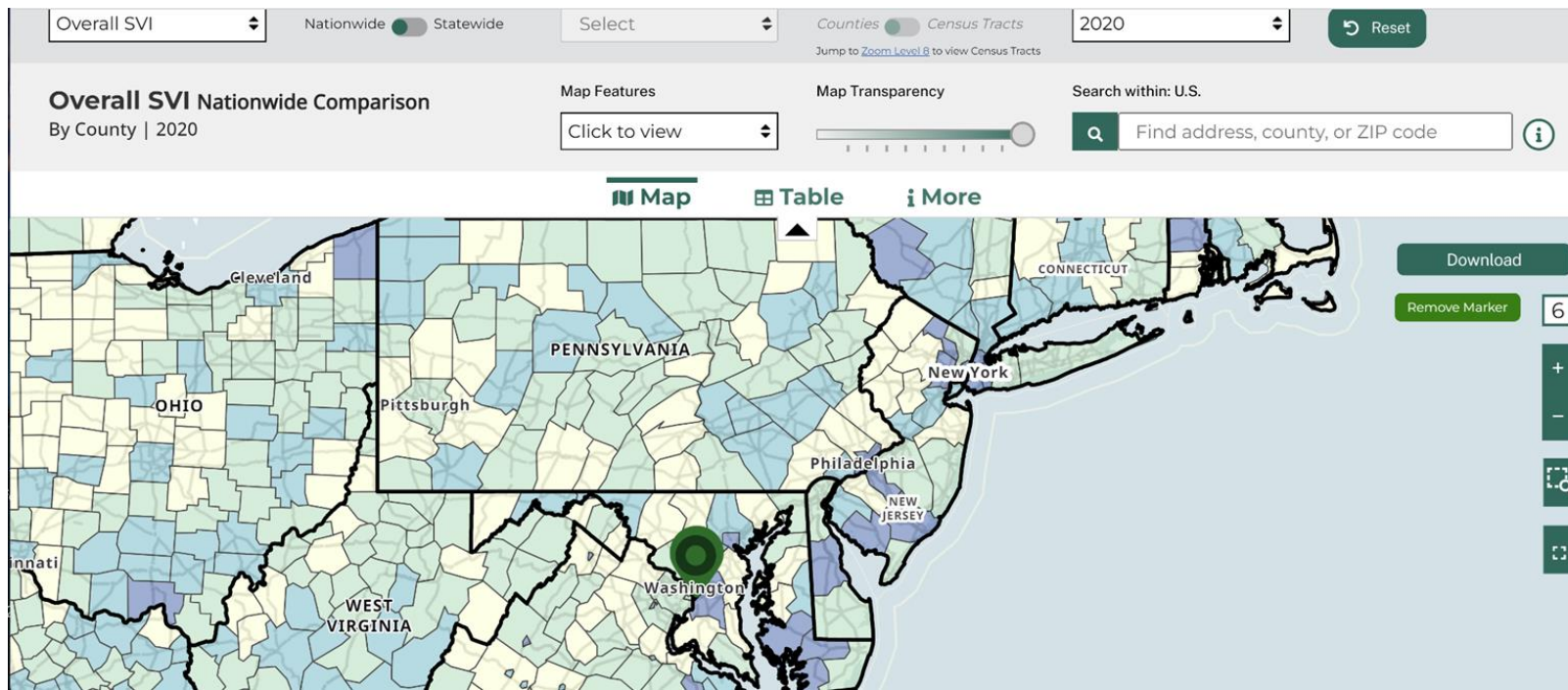
# SDOH Care Continuum



# How Can Awareness of the SDOH Help Clinicians?

- Interrelationship of social, behavioral, and mental health
- Two-way interaction: physical and mental health
- Awareness of community-level risk
- Prioritizing connections to social services where appropriate
- And more. . . .

# CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index ("CDC SVI")



# Unite Us: Connecting with social services for “whole-person care”

[Solutions](#) ▾[Products](#) ▾[Networks](#) ▾[Impact](#) ▾[Company](#) ▾[Log In](#)[Demo](#)

## Your Partner for Social Care

Thousands of government, healthcare, community-based organizations, agencies, and institutions of all sizes partner with Unite Us because of our robust technology, expansive network, and tenured people who support



whole-person care





**CODE**

# Thank You!

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