



Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Information Exchange Toolkit & Learning Forum

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Mark Knee

Deputy Director, Interoperability Division, Office of Policy
Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology



Agenda

- Overview
- SDOH Information Exchange Toolkit
- SDOH Information Exchange Learning Forum Series
- Questions

Overview

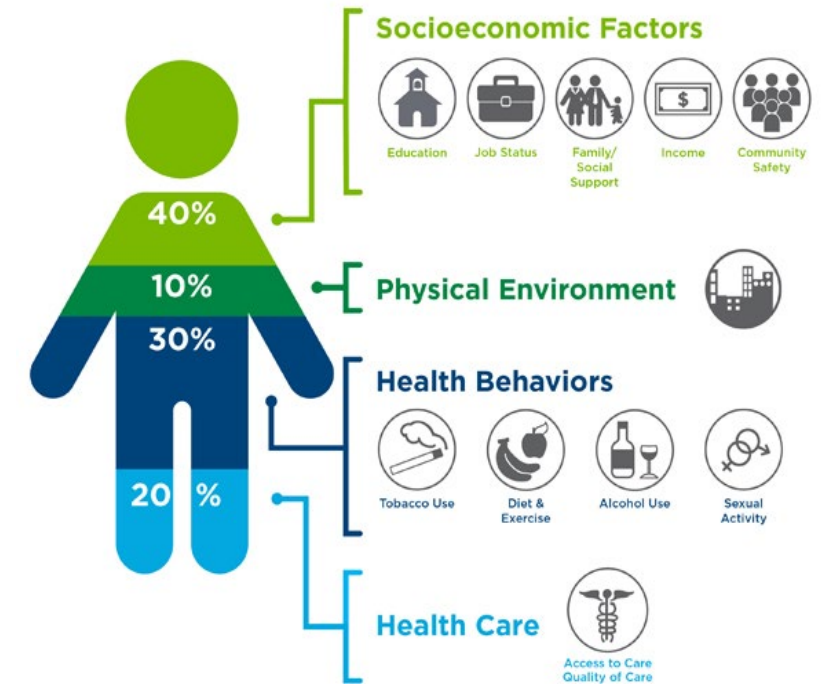
Why Are Social Needs Important?

There is growing awareness that SDOH information improves whole person care and lowers cost. Unmet social needs negatively impact health outcomes.

- **Food insecurity** correlates to higher levels of diabetes, hypertension, and heart failure.
- **Housing instability** factors into lower treatment adherence.
- **Transportation barriers** result in missed appointments, delayed care, and lower medication compliance.

Addressing SDOH is a primary approach to achieve health equity.

What Goes Into Your Health?



Source: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, Going Beyond Clinical Walls: Solving Complex Problems (October 2014)

The Bridgespan Group

Sourced: Gravity Project

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/socialdeterminants/faq.html>

²[https://www.bridgespan.org/insights/library/public-health/the-community-cure-for-health-care-\(1\)](https://www.bridgespan.org/insights/library/public-health/the-community-cure-for-health-care-(1))

ONC, SDOH, Equity, and Interoperability

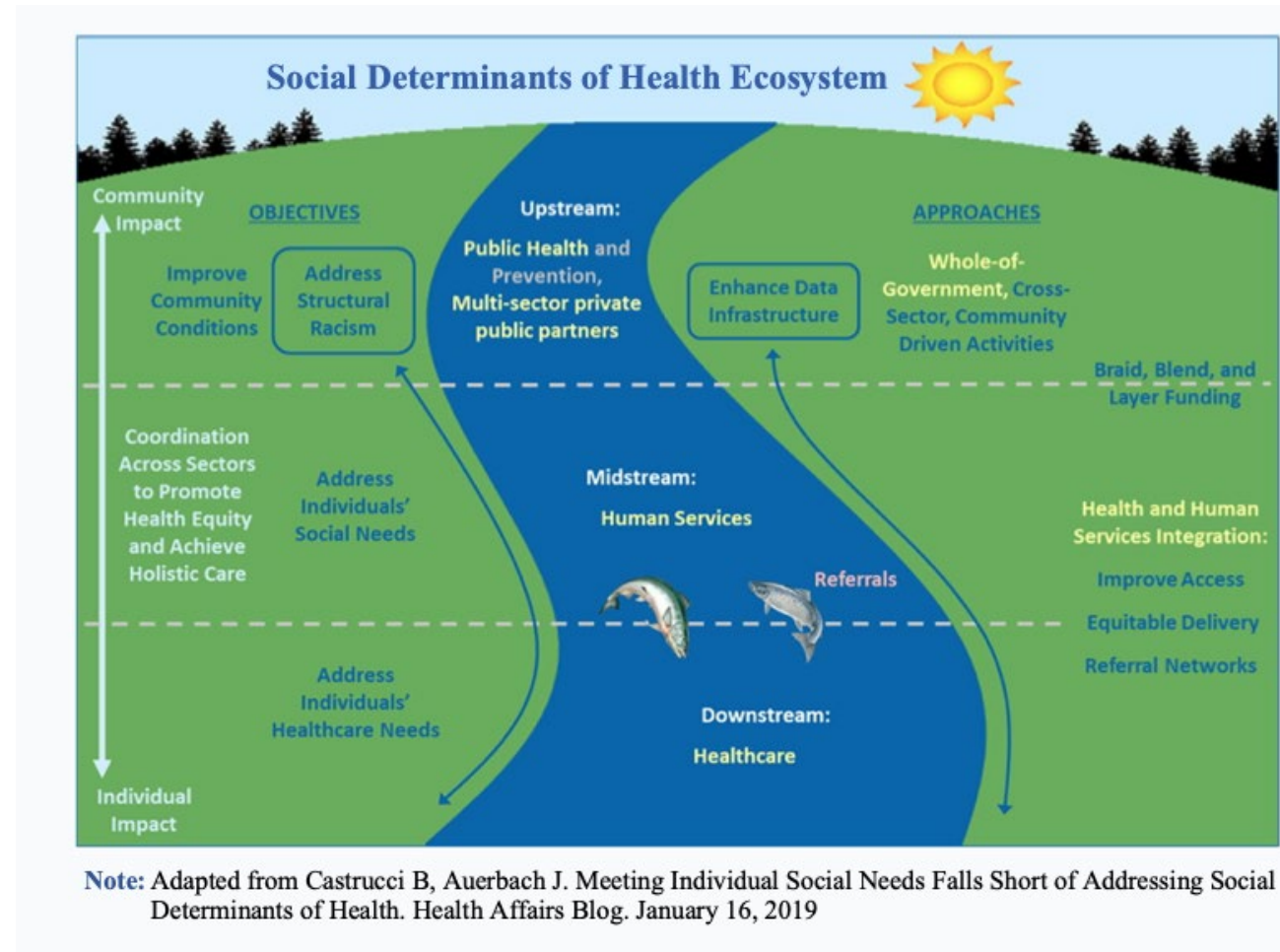
- SDOH data refers to the **conditions in environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age** that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.
- Addressing inequities in these conditions, driven in large part due to the root causes of poverty and racism, can be supported in part through the collection, documentation, reporting, access and use of SDOH data.
- Advancing the use and interoperability of SDOH data is important to improve the health and well-being of all individuals and communities.
- Gaps in available standardized SDOH data make it difficult to leverage available technology (EHRs, portals) to collect, share, and use it for individual and community health.

HHS SDOH Action Plan

Goal 1: Build a robust and interconnected data infrastructure to support care coordination and evidence-based policymaking.

Goal 2: Improve access to and affordability of equitably delivered health care services, and support partnerships between health care and human service providers, as well as, build connections with community partners to address social needs.

Goal 3: Adopt whole-of-government approaches, support public-private partnerships, and leverage community engagement to address SDOH and enhance population health and well-being.

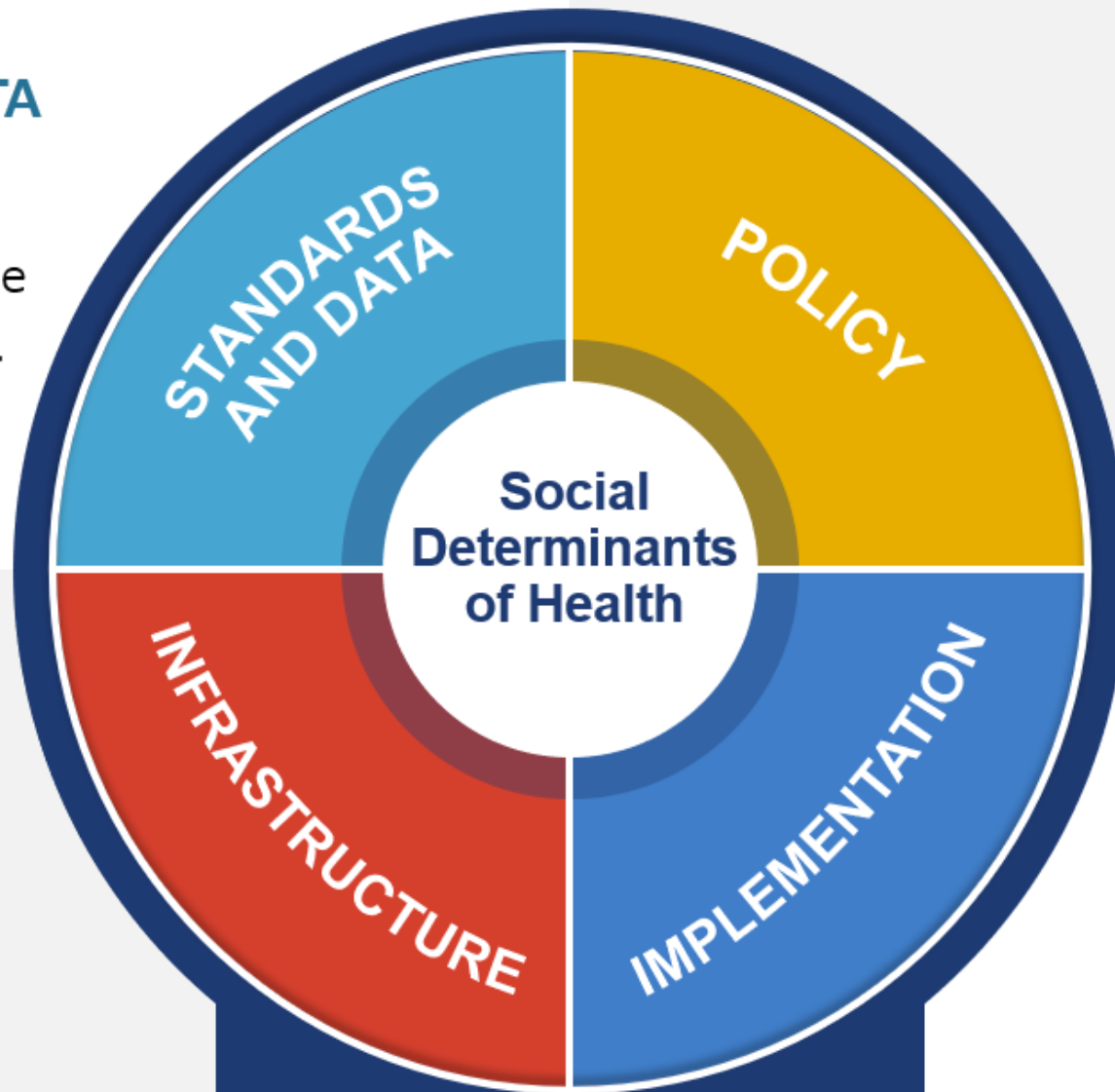


7 **STANDARDS AND DATA**

Support for advancing SDOH data and exchange standards development. Inclusion of SDOH in USCDI.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Work with federal partners, states, and the health IT community on SDOH interoperability initiatives.



POLICY

Included SDOH as a priority for the 2020-2025 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan. Adopted SDOH standards for HHS use in regulation.

IMPLEMENTATION

Developing SDOH Toolkit for SDOH information exchange initiatives including between clinical and community care providers.

ONC Approach to Support Interoperability

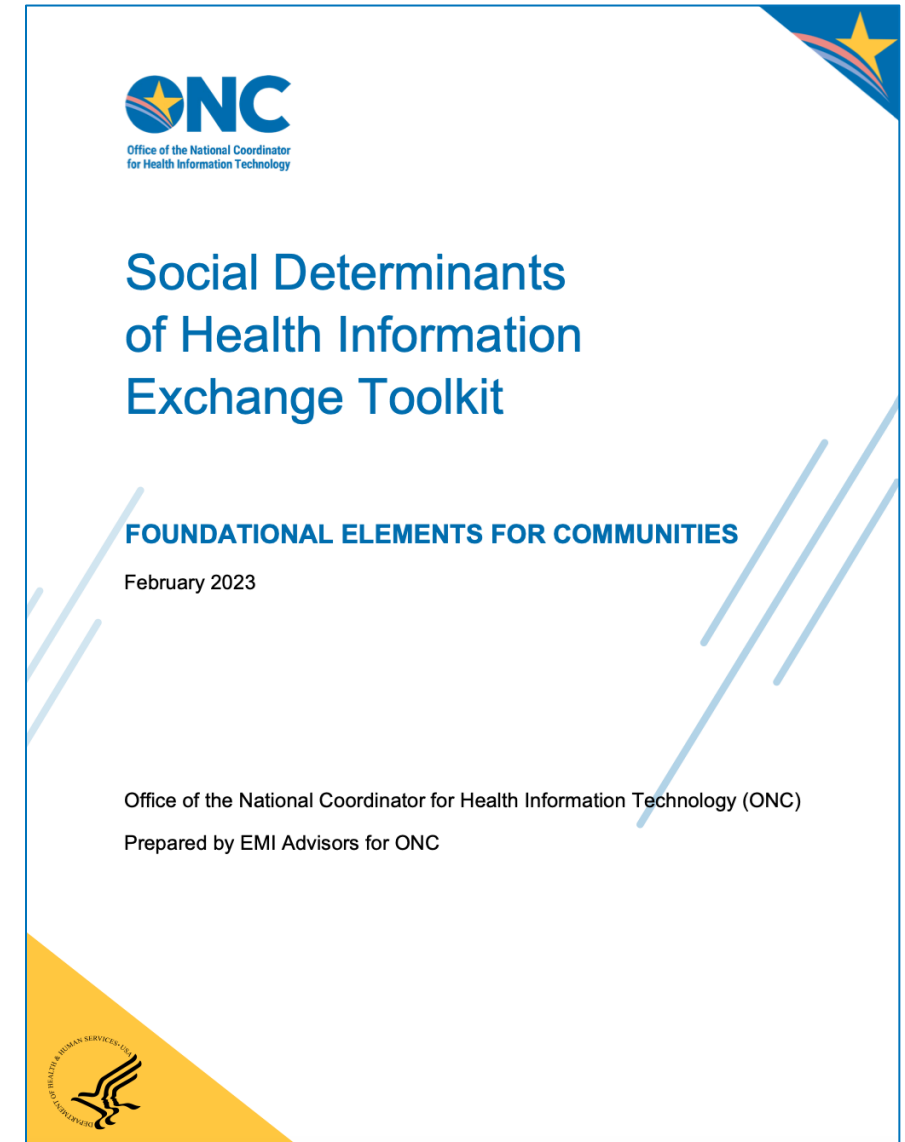
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SDOH Information Exchange Toolkit

ONC SDOH Information Exchange Toolkit

Developed by ONC with support from EMI Advisors and a panel of technical experts.

- Provides information on the SDOH information exchange landscape to stakeholders of all experience levels.
- Identifies approaches to advance SDOH information exchange goals through the ‘foundational elements’ framework.
- Provides examples of common challenges and promising approaches.
- Shares questions and resources to support implementers.
- Available here: [Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\) Information Exchange Toolkit](#)



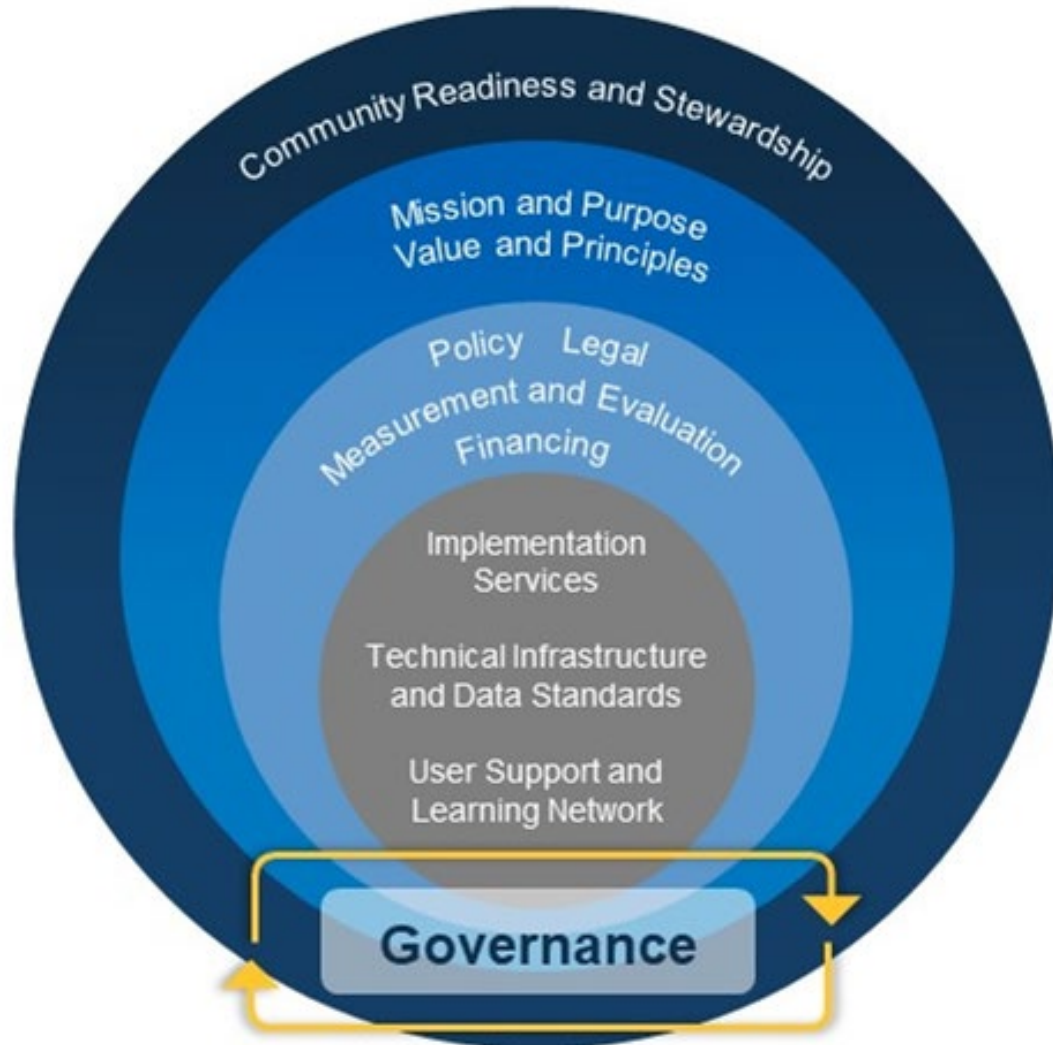
Purpose of the Toolkit

- The Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Information Exchange Toolkit is intended to be a practical guide that enables implementers of SDOH information exchange to learn more about the current landscape and identify key considerations and approaches to advance their goals through the consideration of important Foundational Elements.
- This Toolkit focuses on Foundational Elements for planning, implementing, and evaluating SDOH information exchange initiatives.

Intended Audience:

- Health information exchanges (HIEs)
- Community resource referral initiatives
- Networks of community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Health care provider networks
- Human services providers
- IT platform developers and managers
- Government agencies
- Payers
- Policymakers
- Other health and human services entities

Social Determinants of Health Information Exchange Foundational Elements



Each Foundational Element has a section in the Toolkit with the following information:

- Overview
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Spotlight
- Guiding Questions
- Resources

Foundational Elements

Mission and Purpose: The intention of an initiative, ideally explicitly stated, that addresses the various value propositions of stakeholder groups, as well as the vision, scope of services, and expected benefits.

Community Readiness and Stewardship: Exploring the existing landscape in the geographic area and/or population of focus, assessing the capacity and willingness of the community to participate, and developing stakeholders' shared rights and responsibilities through the process of co-design, evaluation, and decision-making.

Values and Principles: Standards for establishing a framework for action, including ethical decision-making in pursuit of health equity.

Financing: Funding opportunities, sources, and plans for investments, ongoing costs, opportunities for blended approaches, and incentives for community adoption and use.

Implementation Services: Inclusive of technical services (e.g., defining requirements, standards specifications, and integration with existing infrastructure and services) and programmatic services (e.g., defining use cases, workflow design/redesign), as well as support for adoption and utilization by individuals and the community.

Foundational Elements (cont.)

Technical Infrastructure and Data Standards: Alignment of hardware, software, data, processes, and standards to enable scalable and interoperable data and IT systems.

Legal: Establishing the framework of processes and operations, along with rights and obligations, to support data use and sharing and to support compliance with federal, state, local and tribal laws.

Policy: Consideration of federal, state, and local policy levers to advance the ability to collect, share, and use standardized SDOH data, as well as collaboration and alignment with other relevant efforts in the community, region, and/or state for collective impact and improved outcomes.

Measurement and Evaluation: Monitoring and evaluation of performance metrics, individual and population outcomes, program effectiveness, and quality management and improvement.

User Support and Learning Network: User support and learning network activities include assessment of community challenges and needs, education, communication, training, technical assistance, peer-to-peer learning, and identification of promising practices and lessons learned.

Governance: Decision-making processes and groups, including as relates to institutional, administrative, and data governance.



SDOH Information Exchange Learning Forum Series

Webinar series schedule

DESCRIPTION	Meeting Date/Time (EST)	Registration Link
Phase I Webinars		
Introduction to SDOH Information Exchange and the Learning Forum	March 2022	View past meeting materials and recordings here
Vision, Purpose, and Community Engagement	April 2022	
Governance	May 2022	
Technical Infrastructure and Interoperability	June 2022	
Policy and Funding	July 2022	
Phase II Webinars		
Community-level Governance	Thur, February 23, 12-1:30pm	
Values, Principles, and Privacy	Tue, March 28, 2-3:30pm	Register here
Implementation, Measurement, and Evaluation	Tue, May 23, 1-2:30pm	Register here
SDOH Information Exchange Learning Forum Summary	Thur, June 29, 12-1:30pm	Register here

Insights from the SDOH Learning Forum Series

- Community interoperability is based in standards
- Equity as a core design feature
- Foundational elements help to facilitate interoperability and SDOH information exchange in communities
- Governance intersects across all foundational elements of the SDOH Information Exchange framework
- Time and investment in human resources are essential to building capacity and trust

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Questions?