



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

## Social Determinants of Health: Know What Affects Health

Conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes.<sup>1</sup> These conditions are known as social determinants of health (SDOH).

We know that poverty limits access to healthy foods and safe neighborhoods and that more education is a predictor of better health.<sup>2,3,4</sup> We also know that differences in health are striking in communities with poor SDOH such as unstable housing, low income, unsafe neighborhoods, or substandard education.<sup>5,6</sup> By applying what we know about SDOH, we can not only improve individual and population health but also advance health equity.<sup>7,8</sup> [Healthy People 2020external icon](#) highlights the importance of addressing SDOH by including “create social and physical environments that promote good health for all” as one of the four overarching goals for the decade. ([See FAQs for reference materials.](#))

This website provides CDC resources for SDOH data, tools for action, programs, and policy. They may be used by people in public health, community organizations, and health care systems to assess SDOH and improve community well-being.