

Innovation and Opportunities to Address Social Determinants of Health in Medicaid Managed Care

Clinical care is one factor influencing health outcomes, but may be responsible for 10-15 percent of preventable mortality in the United States³. A range of other factors, collectively categorized as social determinants of health (SDOH), have a more profound influence on care, outcomes, and population health. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), SDOH are “the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.”³

Given that Medicaid provides health care coverage for more than 70 million low-income individuals, families, people with disabilities, and seniors, it is well positioned to identify and coordinate the SDOH needs of some of the most vulnerable people in the United States.¹²

Social Determinants of Health by the Numbers

- The mixture of SDOH-based environmental, political, socioeconomic, environmental, and behavioral factors contribute to **60%** of preventable mortality.^{1, 4}
- One Medicaid managed care organization demonstrated an **average spending reduction of \$2,443** in second-year medical expenditures for individuals who received coordinated referral services to address social needs.

Common Social Determinants of Health



Clinical Priorities

- Standardize social determinants of health information.
- Explore alternative care delivery approaches.
- Identify strategies to target at-risk populations.



Research Priorities

- Identify sustainable funding sources to address social determinants of health.
- Determine the valuation of social intervention strategies that provide the most value.



Policy Priorities

- Establish an evidence-based, nationally standardized screening tool and quality metrics.
- Identify strategies to fund social interventions that have an impact on health outcomes.
- Support multi-stakeholder engagement to successfully integrate social intervention strategies.

For more information, read IMI's full 2019 report, "Innovation and Opportunities to Address Social Determinants of Health in Medicaid Managed Care." For a complete list of sources, please contact the Institute for Medicaid Innovation at info@MedicaidInnovation.org

