

Increasing Availability of Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Data at HHS

Irma Arispe, PhD

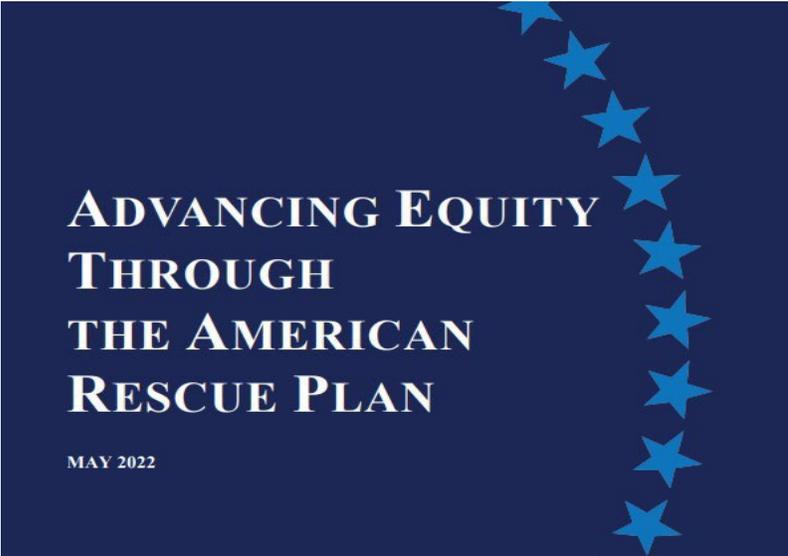
Director, Division of Analysis and Epidemiology

NCHS Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting

May 26, 2022

Zoom

Signaling the Importance of Social Determinants of Health



Reaching people, many of whom are experiencing grief and sometimes stigma from the loss of a loved one to COVID-19, may require multiple, varied forms of outreach over a long period of time. And, while COVID-19 has affected the entire country, there have been notable regional and demographic variations in the severity of its health impacts, both because of social determinants of health and, more recently, varied vaccination rates.

FEDERAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT—MID-COURSE UPDATE

04/16/21

Executive Summary

Context

In spring 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic rapidly revealed the effects of unchecked health disparities and fragile systems. Immediately compounding the infectious disease crisis, the overlapping economic, educational, behavioral health, and substance use crises shifted communities and individuals into deeper struggling and suffering – defining the syndemic. The resulting inequitable impact and steep declines in mental health and well-being made clear that returning to pre-pandemic “normal” would be unacceptable.

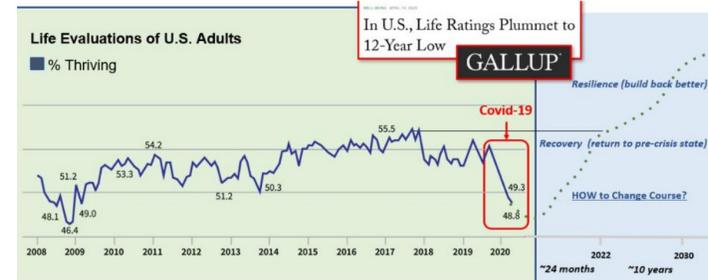


Figure 1 Source: Gallup <http://news.gallup.com/poll/308276/life-ratings-plummet-year-low.aspx>

In response, an objective was added to the COVID-19 Federal Incident Response Plan to “Develop a federal plan for the long-term recovery and resilience (LTRR) of social, behavioral, and community health.” Currently, more than 100 people from 25 agencies actively participate in the Interagency Workgroup developing the plan.

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Federal Plan

Currently, more than 25 federal agencies actively participate in the Interagency Workgroup developing the LTRR plan. The plan purpose is to align federal actions, outline strategies to improve vital conditions, support community and individual recovery from the impacts of COVID-19, and positively impact health and well-being over the next ten years and beyond.

The strategies aim to identify interdependencies, increase coordination, and remove barriers to foster long-term contributions toward community resilience. The initial recommendations identify specific federal actions that can inform the strategies.



Figure 2: The Interagency Workgroup model for achieving thriving and well-being for all people in all places.

FY 2023–2026 HHS Evidence–Building Plan

Selected Evidence-Building Questions

How do HHS programs and policies expand equitable access to comprehensive, community-based, innovative, and culturally-competent healthcare services while addressing social determinants of health?

To what extent do HHS programs and policies strengthen and expand access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment and recovery services for individuals and families?

How do HHS policies and programs enhance promotion of healthy lifestyle behaviors to reduce occurrence and disparities in preventable injury, illness, and death?

What improvements are needed to HHS programs and policies for data collection, use, and evaluation to increase evidence-based knowledge that leads to better health outcomes, reduced health disparities, and improved social well-being, equity, and economic resilience?

Questions for the BSC

- How can NCHS be more strategic in engaging on this broad set of topics so that our work is most effective?
- Are there specific SDOH that should be prioritized across the agency?

HHS SDOH Action Plan

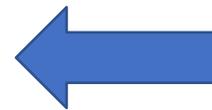
Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Federal Programs

Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Federal Programs

build on evidence in the field on what works.

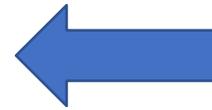
The first document is an essay in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Health Forum that describes HHS' three-pronged strategy to address SDOH through: (1) enhancing data infrastructure; (2) improving connections between health and social service providers; and (3) engaging in whole-of-government collaborations to implement comprehensive solutions.

[Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Federal Programs](#)^{PDF}



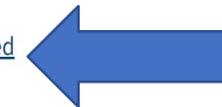
The second document is a supplemental two-page summary and infographic that summarizes the HHS SDOH strategic approach.

[SDOH Action Plan At a Glance](#)



The third document is a review of the evidence on interventions that have been implemented to address social determinants of health and describes illustrative HHS agency actions.

[Addressing Social Determinants of Health: Examples of Successful Evidence-Based Strategies and Current Federal Efforts](#)



[Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Federal Programs | ASPE \(hhs.gov\)](#)

HHS's Strategic Approach to Addressing Social Determinants of Health to Advance Health Equity – At a Glance

April 1, 2022

Overview

The strategic approach that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is adopting to address social determinants of health (SDOH) will guide efforts to make health outcomes more equitable by better coordinating health and human services and by adopting a whole-of-government, multi-sector strategy to address the underlying systemic and environmental factors that affect health status. It is estimated that clinical care accounts for only 20% of the county-level variation in health outcomes, while SDOH account for as much as 50% and are a major driver of health disparities.



[Social Determinants of Health - Healthy People 2030 | health.gov](https://www.health.gov/healthy-people-2030/social-determinants-of-health)

[SDOH-Action-Plan-At-a-Glance.pdf \(hhs.gov\)](https://www.hhs.gov/health-equity/2022/04/01/sdoh-action-plan-at-a-glance)

This Issue

Views **3,942** | Altmetric **8** | Comments **1**

JAMA Forum

March 31, 2022

Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Federal Programs

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[» Author Affiliations](#) | [Article Information](#)

JAMA Health Forum. 2022;3(3):e221064. doi:10.1001/jamahealthforum.2022.1064

The HHS strategic approach to address SDOH will drive progress through coordinated strategies and activities to better integrate health and human services and to advance public health initiatives involving cross-sector partnerships and community engagement to address specific SDOH drivers.



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 services 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*



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Report to Congress: Social Risk Factors and Performance in Medicare's Value-Based Purchasing Program

The Second of Two Reports Required by the Improving Medicare
Post-Acute Care Transformation (IMPACT) Act of 2014

March 2020

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

Section 2(d) of the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation (IMPACT) Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-183) called for the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to study the effect of individuals' socioeconomic status (SES) on quality measures and measures of resource use under the Medicare program.

Three policy questions:

1. Should some or all of Medicare's value-based purchasing programs account for social risk by adjusting measures and/or payment based on those measures?
2. Should HHS routinely collect more extensive and detailed data on beneficiaries' social risk factors than is currently available?
3. How can HHS achieve better outcomes for all Medicare beneficiaries by facilitating the ability of providers and communities to address social risk factors and integrate health and social services?



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RESEARCH TRUST FUND

PROJECT REPORT

Scoping Review Report

Data Elements for Research on the Role of Social Determinants of Health in Coronavirus Disease 2019 Infection and Outcomes in the U.S.

Prepared for
the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE)
at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

March 7, 2022

Existing data sources from federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), Housing and Urban Development data, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) claims data, as well as local data from EHRs and health information exchanges, are important for understanding disparities and effectiveness of interventions. However, they may not include standardized SDOH data elements for comparability and linkages across that could be the possible reason for finding only very limited (a few) examples in the scoping review where these data were linked.

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Press release

CMS Proposes Policies to Advance Health Equity and Maternal Health, Support Hospitals

Apr 18, 2022 | [Billing & payments](#), [Hospitals](#), [Policy](#), [Medicare Parts A & B](#)

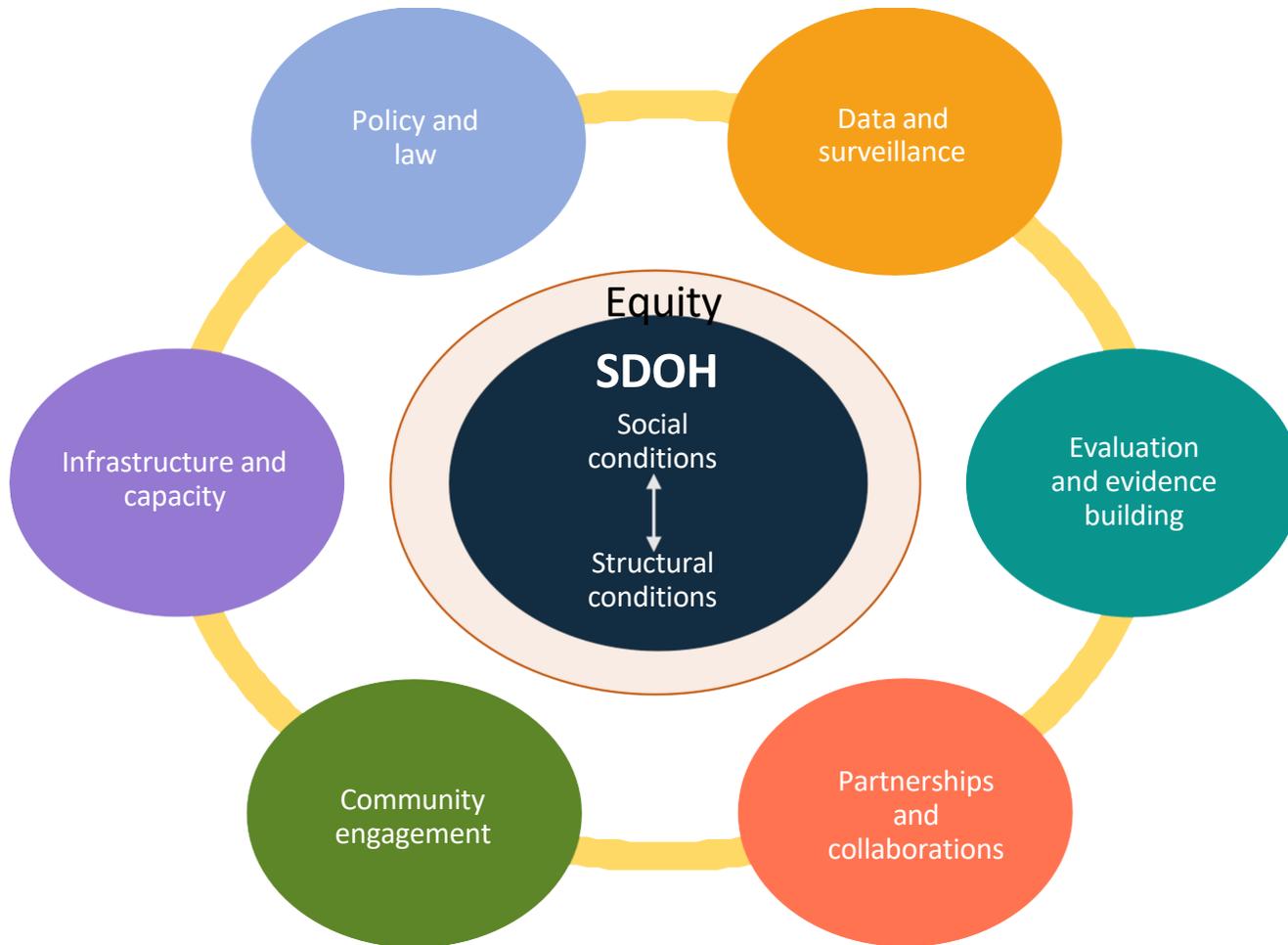
Related Releases

[FY 2023 Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System \(IPPS\) and Long Term Care Hospitals \(LTCH PPS\) Proposed Rule - CMS-1771-P](#)

[CMS Proposes Policies to Advance Health Equity and Maternal Health, Support Hospitals | CMS](#)

CDC SDOH Task Force

Describing the Value of Public Health Investment in SDOH



CDC SDOH Task Force

Six cross-CIO subcommittees

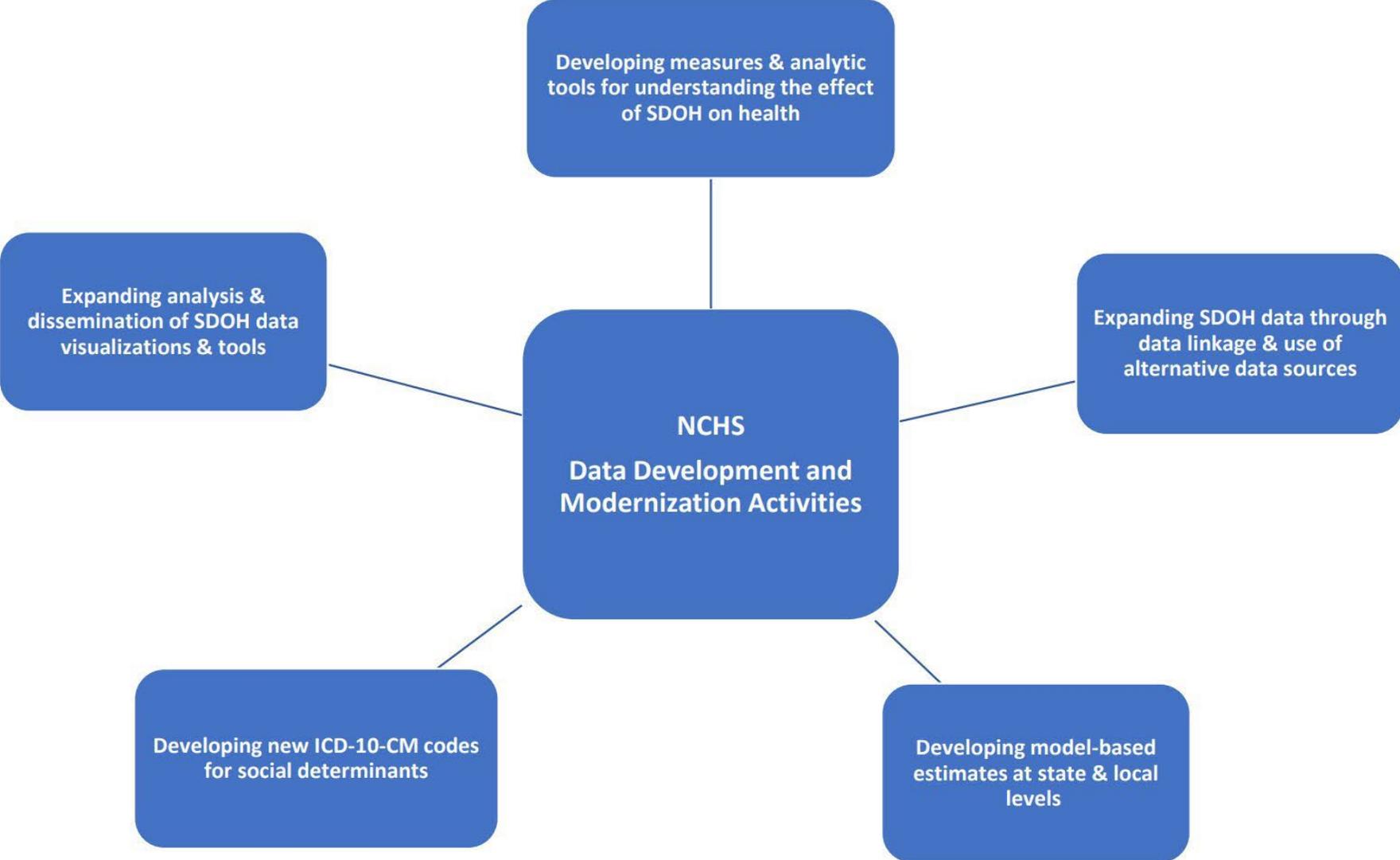
- Share information about ongoing activities
- Shape SDOH cross-cutting work
- Develop SDOH goals
- Promote whole of government approach
- Support the field (funding, technical assistance)
- Develop workforce capacity

Fostering Communication with Other SDOH-Related Initiatives Within CDC

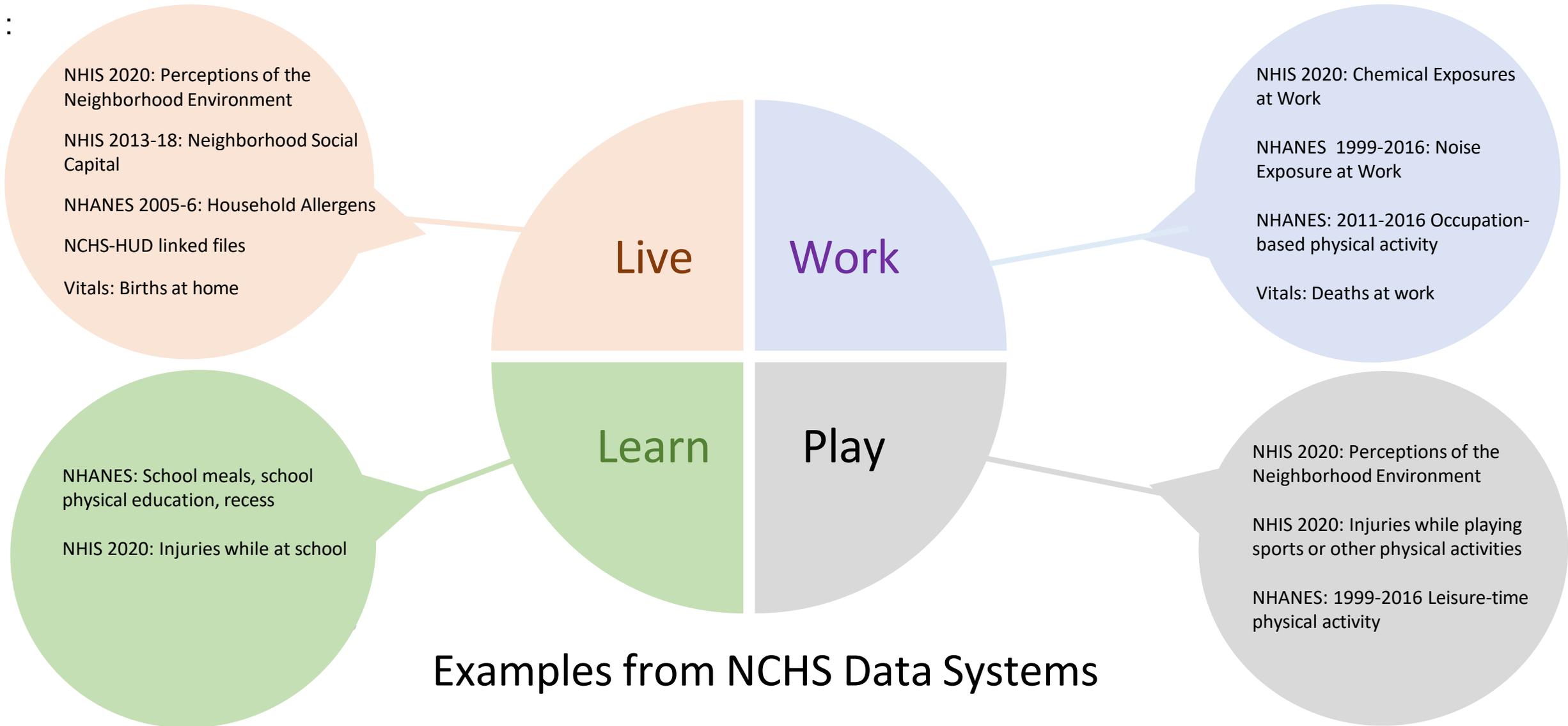
- Data Modernization Initiative (Alignment Groups)
- Standards Development Activities
 - Data Standards Management and Harmonization Workgroup
 - Health Equity Data Elements and Standards Group
- CDC SDOH Public Health Use Case Workgroup

NCHS SDOH-related Activities

NCHS Activities to Support SDOH



“Social determinants of health are conditions in the places **where people live, learn, work, and play** that affect a wide range of health and quality-of-life-risks and outcomes.”



Promoting Harmonization in Interagency Health Monitoring

- Healthy People Initiative
- *Health, United States*
- America's Children Key National Indicators of Well-Being
- Older Americans Key Indicators of Well-Being



Health, United States

Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics

America's Children:
Key National Indicators
of Well-Being, 2021

2020 | Older Americans
Key Indicators of Well-Being

Standardizing Measures

Reduce the proportion of people living in poverty — SDOH-01

Objective Overview

Data

Data Methodology and Measurement

Evidence-Based Resources

Add to Custom List

Status: Baseline only

[Learn more about our data release schedule](#)



Most Recent Data:
11.8 percent (2018)



Target:
8.0 percent



Desired Direction:
Decrease desired



Baseline:
11.8 percent of persons were living below the poverty threshold in 2018

[See detailed data for this objective](#)

Reduce the proportion of persons living in poverty

Target-Setting Method: Projection

Data Source: [Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement \(CPS-ASEC\)](#), [Census and DOL/BLS](#)

[Learn more about data measurement for this objective](#)



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

National Center for Health Statistics

CDC > NCHS

[About NCHS](#)

Health Data Standards

Supporting Data Infrastructure through Data Linkage



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Table 9. Implications by Project

Implications by Project		
OS-PCORTF Funded COVID-19 Initiatives Project Title (Lead Agency)	Project Description	Implications from the Scoping Review
Building Infrastructure and Evidence for COVID-19 Related Research, Using Integrated Data from NCHS Data Linkage Program (CDC/National Center for Health Statistics [NCHS])	Create publicly available synthetic data integrating SDOH (health care access, education, income, housing, and urbanicity) to enable research to assess associations between individual risk factors, health behaviors, and SDOH and pre-COVID-19 respiratory-related health care-seeking behavior and treatments, patterns of care, and outcomes.	Highlights examples of papers with the definitions and measures of SDOH data elements of health care access, education, income, housing, and urbanicity and their association with COVID-19, particularly income and housing.

What should be NCHS' goal in SDOH?

- An important emphasis of the HHS Action Plan is on the Medicare program, data infrastructure, data sharing, interoperability
 - Translates into capturing SDOH in the clinical encounter
 - Data linkage also plays an important role
 - Standardization and data quality issues will challenge these efforts
 - Public health dimensions are not yet addressed
- NCHS has a unique opportunity through its multiple programs to contribute to improvements in data infrastructure for SDOH
- A more strategic approach can strengthen our contribution