

HOW SOCIAL DETERMINANTS SHAPE HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the environments in which individuals are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that influence a variety of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risk factors. In order to put an end to homelessness, it is imperative to identify the SDOH that contribute to this complex and complicated issue.

Education
Lack of quality education leads to limited job opportunities and economic instability

Health Care
Barriers to accessing health care, mental health services, and addiction treatment

Neighborhood and Environment
Unsafe living conditions, lack of social services, and food deserts in disadvantaged communities

Economic Stability
Unemployment, low income, and lack of affordable housing as primary contributors to homelessness

hand
HOMELESS ACTION NETWORK OF DETROIT

Resources: https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/legislationpolicy/2022-2024-social-determinants-of-health-strategy/sdoh-strategy

https://www.samhsa.gov/blog/addressing-social-determinants-health-among-individuals-experiencing-homelessness



Homelessness is closely associated with higher rates of mental and substance use disorders compared to those who are stably housed. Individuals experiencing homelessness face significant health disparities, including increased mortality due to suicide. Addressing these issues requires understanding the SDOH, which are key to developing comprehensive solutions to prevent and end homelessness

Michigan's Solution:

The 2022-2024 MDHHS Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Strategy, known as **Michigan's Roadmap to Healthy Communities**, enhances current initiatives aimed at tackling social determinants of health. This strategy concentrates on coordinating state and local actions to maximize community benefits with 3 phases:

Phase 1 - The Refinement Phase: Prioritized health equity, housing stability, and food security by aligning efforts at the state, local, and community levels and conducting an internal assessment to enhance programs and regulations.

Phase 2 - The Holistic Phase:
Outlined structural initiatives for community information exchange (CIE), community health workers (CHWs), and health equity alliances. A systemic approach was used, emphasizing infrastructure development and enhancement for comprehensive treatment.

Phase 3 - The Innovation Phase
Enhance prior efforts by launching SDOH Hubs, implementing the Health in All Policies (HiAP) framework, and launching initiatives to reduce disparities.