Co-developing a social health research agenda

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SONNET
Social Needs Network for Evaluation and Translation

Background

Kaiser Permanente's Social Needs Network for Evaluation and Translation (SONNET) works with operational partners as **a social care learning health system (LHS) to understand how to improve members' social health.** Senior leaders in partnership with SONNET recognized a need to develop a research agenda for social health learning and action.

Objective

SONNET aimed to identify and prioritize a **social health research agenda** to guide investment in the most urgent and impactful activities.

Methods

746 operational leaders, clinicians, researchers, and staff were invited to participate in a **concept mapping study**. First, participants responded to the prompt **"One thing I wish we knew more about to advance my work addressing social health..."** 515 responses were condensed into 92 summary statements. Respondents then grouped and rated each summary statement from 1 to 10 based on importance and urgency. Member-checking occurred at each stage.

Responses & summary statements

746 Operational leaders, providers, researchers, and staff from inside and outside KP asked to respond to the prompt

515 Responses collected and grouped

92 Summary statements created from the grouped responses

Rating & sorting into themes

164 Operational leaders, providers, researchers, and staff who were asked to respond to the prompt rated summary statements

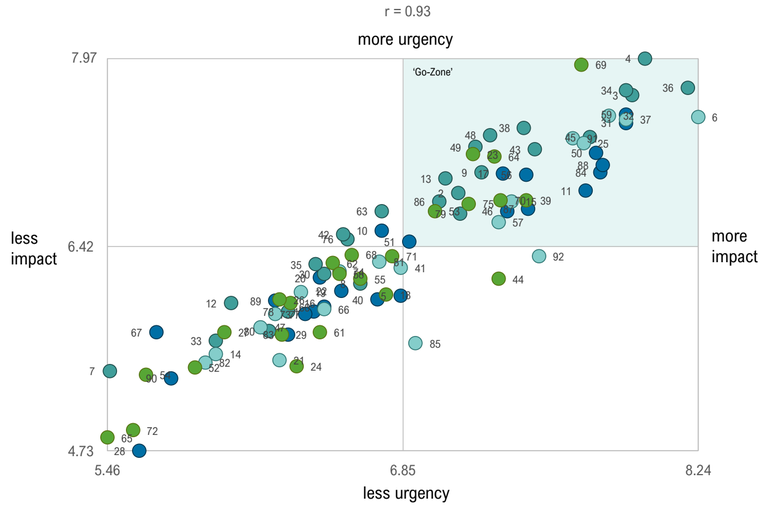
30 Subject matter experts rated summary statements on impact and urgency and sorted them into 11 topics

4 Overall themes emerged

Results based on concept mapping of importance and urgency

The concept mapping process generated 4 major themes of empirical, partnership, operational, and strategic activities. **We mapped the impact and urgency scores of the summary statements onto a scatterplot**, with the highest-rated statements in the upper right quadrant called the "Go-Zone." Of the 92 summary statements rated, 39 landed in the Go-Zone.

- Empirical opportunities
- Engaging collaborators/partners
- Operations (implementation)
- Strategy



Top 10 highest-rated opportunity statements in the Go-Zone

1. Align social health practice with care delivery and operational goals.
2. Build implementation support for social health integration in the delivery system.
3. Make investment in social health activities long-term so multi-year projects are possible.
4. Train providers to discuss and address social health with members.
5. Clarify which social risks to prioritize to have the biggest impact.
6. Support staff who work directly with members impacted by SDOH.
7. Learn how to address social needs in a culturally competent manner.
8. Design sustainable social health interventions that address the structural factors that impact health.
9. Ascertain what types of social health resources members most desire.
10. Create social health tools and communications that are relevant and meaningful to our members in their preferred language.

Conclusion

These results offer a **roadmap of areas within social care that are of highest priority for implementation and further study.** Concept mapping can be a useful engagement approach to identifying and prioritizing social health research questions.

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