



SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT

Social determinants of health are social and economic conditions that may directly or indirectly affect health outcomes. Research shows that factors such as a quality education, stable employment, safe surroundings, access to healthy food, transportation options, internet connectivity and preventive and support services may contribute to individual physical health, as well as to overall health-related quality of life for a community. This evidence does not diminish the importance of medical care in determining health outcomes, but instead suggests that these social factors, in addition to medical care and a number of additional determinants, contribute to physical health and quality of life.

Research also indicates that social determinants of health contribute to systematic and avoidable disparities in health outcomes that may disadvantage the residents of low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities. Galea et al. (2011) estimated that in 2000, 133,000 deaths in the U.S. could be attributed to living in poverty and an additional 39,000 deaths could be attributed to living in poor neighborhoods. To address this neighborhood disparity and more comprehensively promote healthy communities regardless of income level, there is increasing coordination between public health initiatives and community development efforts.

WHAT STATE AND LOCAL INITIATIVES EXIST AROUND SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT?

In addition to the national *Healthy People 2020* plan, many states have community health plans that detail health initiatives and may include specific goals for social determinants. Some of these are designed to directly mirror *Healthy People 2020* while others frame health goals differently, according to state needs

	<i>Design of state-level health plan</i>	<i>State and local initiatives around social determinants of health</i>
 DC	Plan uses <i>Healthy People</i> framework	▶ In 2014, the District of Columbia conducted its Community Health Needs Assessment, and established a goal to “achieve health equity by addressing social determinants of health and system-level inequities.”
 MD	Plan uses <i>Healthy People</i> framework	▶ In its most recent comprehensive health plan for Baltimore, <i>Healthy Baltimore 2015</i> , the Baltimore City Health Department designates the creation of health-promoting neighborhoods as a key priority.
 NC	Plan uses <i>Healthy People</i> framework	▶ <i>Healthy Carolinians of Orange County (HCOC)</i> is a network of agencies that work with private citizens to assess community health needs in Orange County, North Carolina. HCOC’s mission emphasizes improving health for all residents and reducing health disparities.
 SC	Plan does not use <i>Healthy People</i> framework	▶ <i>AccessHealth SC</i> , founded in 2008, as an affiliate of the South Carolina Hospital Association, brings together healthcare providers across the state to support communities in the creation of local provider networks of care and reports on state health outcomes, with an emphasis on equitable healthcare provision.
 VA	Plan does not use <i>Healthy People</i> framework	▶ The Virginia Department of Health’s Office of Minority Health and Health Equity recently launched the <i>Virginia Health Opportunity Index</i> , an online mapping tool that allows advocates, residents, and healthcare providers to visualize social determinants of health across the Commonwealth.
 WV	Plan is currently in development	▶ <i>Huntington’s Kitchen</i> in Huntington, West Virginia is a community food and health center that was founded in 2009 by Chef Jamie Oliver. The kitchen is now supported through a partnership with Marshall University, and offers cooking classes, health screenings, and dietary consultations.

Sources: “DC Healthy People 2020 Framework,” D.C. Department of Health, 2016; “DC Healthy People 2020 Development Progress,” D.C. Department of Health, 2015; “Maryland State Health Improvement Process,” Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2016; “Healthy Baltimore 2015,” Baltimore City Health Department, 2015; “Healthy North Carolina 2020: A Better State of Health,” North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, 2016; “Healthy Carolinians of Orange County,” Orange County, North Carolina, 2015; “Call to Action for Health Equity,” Alliance for a Healthier South Carolina, 2016; “AccessHealth SC,” South Carolina Hospital Association, 2015; “Virginia’s Plan for Well-Being 2016-2020,” Virginia Department of Health, 2015; “Virginia Health Opportunity Index (HOI),” Virginia Department of Health, 2016; “State Health Plan – Current,” West Virginia Health Care Authority, 2016; “Welcome to the Kitchen,” Huntington’s Kitchen, 2016.

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