

# Collecting Social Determinants of Health Data

## What are Social Determinants of Health?

Social determinants of health (SDOH) 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. SDOH can either positively or negatively affect health and quality of life outcomes.

Social needs arise when one or more SDOH negatively affect a person's ability to achieve their desired health outcomes. For example, transportation can be a factor in getting and staying healthy. Reliable transportation to grocery stores can improve health outcomes by ensuring access to food.

## How does the Health Plan collect information on SDOH?

SCFHP has three opportunities to collect SDOH data for our members:

- Health Risk Assessments ([HRA](#)) for members receiving SCFHP's case management
- Through referrals for [Enhanced Care Management](#) and [Community Supports](#)
- Through encounter data (i.e. ICD-10 codes related to SDOH—examples listed in the table on the reverse)

## How can I help collect SDOH data?

In addition to facilitating the completion of HRAs with the Case Manager and submitting referrals to ECM and Community Supports when appropriate, providers can help collect SDOH data by utilizing the ICD-10 codes identifying SDOH. These include codes Z55-Z65 (often called Z-codes), which identify non-medical factors that may influence a patient's health status. Z-codes identify issues related to a patient's socioeconomic situation, including but not limited to education and literacy, employment, housing, lack of adequate food or water or occupational exposure to risk factors like dust, radiation, or toxic agents, problems related to psychosocial circumstances or social environment.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)<sup>1</sup> released a set of 18 priority ICD-10 codes to support the identification of member health, social and risk needs, and to ensure that members receive the specific services and programs that they require. Providers are expected to document these codes as appropriate based on their interaction with the patient. These codes do not need to be listed as the primary diagnosis, if not appropriate, but should be listed as secondary or tertiary, when submitting a claim or encounter information. Please reference the table attached which lists DHCS Priority SDOH Codes and additional codes that SCFHP utilizes for [Enhanced Care Management \(ECM\)](#) and [Community Supports](#) eligibility determination.

## Why are Z-codes in patient's diagnosis important?

When providers include Z-codes in their patients' diagnosis, it helps SCFHP connect them to the resources they need. Once members are identified they may be referred to case management, ECM, or Community Supports to have trained staff or providers help address their social needs.

Having accurate SDOH information on our membership also allows SCFHP to assess gaps in our programs and find necessary resources to better serve our members and assist our providers.

<sup>1</sup> [APL 21-009](#)

## DHCS Priority SDOH Codes

<b>Z55.0</b>	Illiteracy and low-level literacy
<b>Z59.00</b>	Homelessness unspecified
<b>Z59.01</b>	Sheltered homelessness
<b>Z59.02</b>	Unsheltered homelessness
<b>Z59.1</b>	Inadequate housing (lack of heating/space, unsatisfactory surroundings)
<b>Z59.3</b>	Problems related to living in residential institution
<b>Z59.41</b>	Food insecurity
<b>Z59.48</b>	Other specified lack of adequate food
<b>Z59.7</b>	Insufficient social insurance and welfare support
<b>Z59.8</b>	Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances (foreclosure, isolated dwelling, problems with creditors)
<b>Z59.811</b>	Housing instability, housed with risk of homelessness
<b>Z59.812</b>	Housing instability, homelessness in past 12 months
<b>Z59.819</b>	Housing instability, unspecified
<b>Z60.2</b>	Problems related to living alone
<b>Z60.4</b>	Social exclusion and rejection (physical appearance, illness or behavior)
<b>Z62.819</b>	Personal history of unspecified abuse in childhood
<b>Z63.0</b>	Problems in relationship with spouse or partner
<b>Z63.4</b>	Disappearance & death of family member (assumed death, bereavement)
<b>Z63.5</b>	Disruption of family by separation and divorce (marital estrangement)
<b>Z63.6</b>	Dependent relative needing care at home
<b>Z63.72</b>	Alcoholism and drug addiction in family
<b>Z65.1</b>	Imprisonment and other incarceration
<b>Z65.2</b>	Problems related to release from prison
<b>Z65.8</b>	Other specified problems related to psychosocial circumstances (religious or spiritual problem)

## Additional SCFHP Encouraged SDOH Codes

<b>Z59.9</b>	Problem related to housing and economic circumstances, unspecified
<b>Z56.89</b>	Other problems related to employment
<b>Z56.9</b>	Unspecified problems related to employment
<b>Z60.4</b>	Social exclusion and rejection
<b>Z60.9</b>	Other problems related to social environment
<b>Z56.0</b>	Unemployment, unspecified
<b>Z62.3</b>	Other upbringing away from parents
<b>Z62.810</b>	Personal history of physical and sexual abuse in childhood
<b>Z62.811</b>	Personal history of psychological abuse in childhood
<b>Z62.813</b>	Personal HX forced labor/sex exploit in childhood
<b>Z62.9</b>	Problem related to upbringing, unspecified
<b>Z65.0</b>	Conviction in civil and criminal proceedings without imprisonment
<b>Z65.3</b>	Problems related to other legal circumstances
<b>Z81.1</b>	Family history of alcohol abuse and dependence
<b>Z81.3</b>	Family history of other psychoactive substance abuse and dependence
<b>Z81.4</b>	Family history of other substance abuse and dependence

For more information, contact [SDOH@scfhp.com](mailto:SDOH@scfhp.com).

