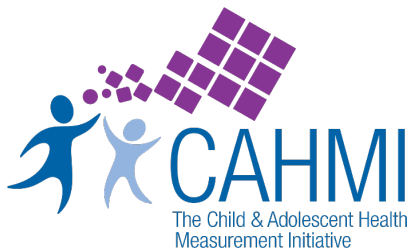


MCH-MRN E-News Update: January 2019

Coordinated by CAHMI



Welcome!

Happy new year and welcome to the January issue of the monthly e-newsletter providing updates and information about the Maternal and Child Health Measurement Research Network (MCH-MRN). The MCH-MRN is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative network of experts who represent the MCH lifespan and who are active in the measurement of health and well-being of MCH populations.

The MCH-MRN is led by the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University and is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant UA6MC30375. This information or content and conclusions are those of the authors and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.



In this edition of MCH-MRN E-News you will find information about:

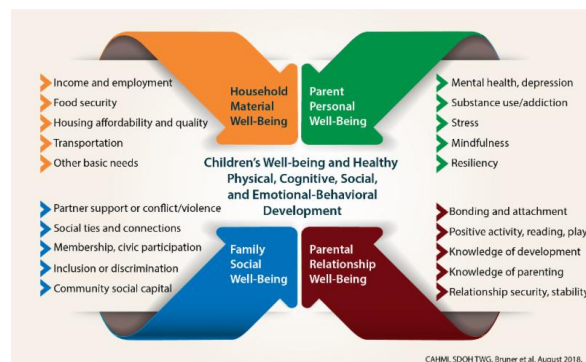
- **Screening to Address Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)**
- **Monitoring SDOH for Perinatal Populations**
- **Engaging in our network!**

Screening to Address Social Determinants of Health Among Young Children and their Families

Multiple bodies of research emphasize the critical need to address social determinants of health (SDOH), especially those that can have negative impact on the safety, stability, and nurturing of young children in the home environment. SDOH is one of six priority measurement priorities defined in the MCH MRN [strategic measurement agenda](#).

Four domains of SDOH—**material well-being**, **psychological well-being**, **social well-being**, and **relationship well-being**—have been defined for young children through the efforts of the MCH MRN Social Determinants of Health Technical Working Group (TWG). (Download [diagram](#).)

Currently, the field of child health is undergoing a



The MCH-MRN [SDOH TWG consensus report](#) recognizes that the “why” and “how” are as essential as the “what” in screening for and responding to SDOH. Screening for SDOH is part of a relationship-centered process to engage parents (or other primary caregivers) and not an end in itself. The “why” of the screening tool is to anchor care on the context and needs of children and families and better partner with families in their role in the healthy development of their children. This engagement

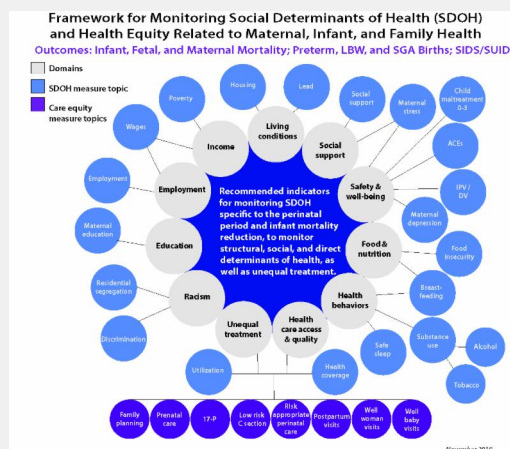
transition toward greater focus on early and lifelong health, development, and well-being, which requires attention to social as well as medical determinants of health. Moreover, the recently released 4th Edition of the American Academy of Pediatrics *Bright Futures* places greater emphasis on the role of well-child visits in identifying and responding to SDOH.

To fill an identified measurement gap, the MCH-MRN SDOH TWG developed an early childhood SDOH [screening tool composed of 18 questions](#), which are based on analysis of other existing tools and questionnaires. While the MCH-MRN, and its sponsor MCHB/HRSA, are not endorsing it, this draft tool is available for testing and further analysis of its properties and utility. It is also being integrated into the CAHMI's Well Visit Planner as appropriate to enrich the collection of SDOH information for well visits. (www.wellvisitplanner.org)

builds trust and opens new lines of communication between health providers and parents, ensuring they are connected to the supports they need and want. Simply put, any screening for SDOH represents a step in the process of supporting the family to promote the child's health and development.

The MCH-MRN TWG strongly recommends further work to advance a comprehensive screening tool for use and adaptation in the field—starting with testing of the tool provided here and with an eye toward refinements. The MCH-MRN TWG also recommends that SDOH content inform future iterations of both the *Bright Futures* tools and the Well Visit Planner, which is well underway as noted above. Visit www.cahmi.org to learn more about the Well Visit Planner.

Download *Next Steps in Family Focused Screening to Address Social Determinants of Health for Young Children in Pediatric Primary Care: Report of the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Technical Working Group of the Maternal and Child Health Measurement Research Network (MCH-MRN)* by Bruner, Johnson, Bethell, et al. The report includes the SDOH tool and background on its development.



Monitoring Social Determinants of Health for Perinatal Populations

The SDOH Learning Network was one of six strategic areas for 2015-17 in the Infant Mortality Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network ([IM CoIIN](#)) funded by MCHB-HRSA to support state's efforts to improve birth outcomes. Measurement was an important facet of IM CoIIN efforts.

Using CAHMI recommended measurement principles and methods, the SDOH Learning Network developed a framework for measuring SDOH and equity for perinatal populations.

The framework is based on a scan that generated and synthesized more than 345 SDOH measures from government and private organizations (e.g., Title V, Healthy People, National Academy of Sciences, Lifecycle, and County Health Rankings). The content has been vetted and reviewed with data experts and state perinatal leaders over the past 18 months.

As shown in the [diagram](#), this measurement framework focuses through 11 domains and includes: 8 perinatal outcome measures, 24 SDOH measure topics, and 9 measure topics for monitoring unequal treatment and access to care. A corresponding set of specific measures, with data definitions and sources, is forthcoming.

This new framework and measurement set is designed to assist state and local areas in monitoring and improving SDOH for pregnant women and infants and health equity in birth outcomes.

Engage with the MCH-MRN

The MCH-MRN provides a platform to: inspire, support, coordinate, and advance efforts related to MCH measurement, promote measurement innovation and shared accountability, and improve outcomes and systems performance on behalf of the nation's children, youth, and families.

MCH-MRN members contribute to setting a strategic agenda,

collaborate to address MCH measurement gaps and needs, and receive resources and information relevant to MCH measurement.

- [Engage in the network](#). Please fill out our [engagement tool](#) to help us to understand how you would like to be engaged in the MCH-MRN and how best to keep you informed about network activities.
- [Use our website](#) and the interactive [compendium](#) to quickly browse through over 1000 MCH measures by measure set, data source category, or three levels of [topical categories](#).
- [See the news and articles](#) we're reading this month.
- [Download](#) the most recent MCH-MRN Strategic Agenda.



The Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI) is a center within the Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



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