Social health is essential to health equity
A person’s health is determined by much more than their behavior or access to health care. Health is inextricably tied to where people are born, live, work, and age.

Health equity — when all people have the opportunity to reach their best health — can only be achieved by identifying and meeting these social health needs.

Nearly half of all employers with 500 or more employees — and about two-thirds of those with 20,000 or more employees — say that addressing health equity and the social drivers of health will be an important priority over the next 3 to 5 years.*

*Mercer, April 2022.
The whole picture of health

While just one piece of the puzzle, social and economic factors greatly impact overall health.* Addressing a person’s unmet social needs can have a positive effect on their physical and mental health and quality of life.

Systemic forces impact all health factors
- Policies and programs
- Biases
- Discrimination
- Racism
- Trauma

*University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings model.
Racial inequities impact workers’ health

Biases and barriers like discrimination influence everything from income to care access. These systemic forces create disparities in physical, mental, and social health.

**Structural and interpersonal racism hurt health and longevity**

People of color in the U.S. experience higher rates of many illnesses — and shorter life expectancies — compared with their white counterparts.¹

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**The cost of not addressing health inequities in the U.S.²**

- **$320 billion** Approximate annual spending in 2022
- **$1 trillion** Projected annual spending by 2040

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Comparing pathways: A tale of 2 ZIP codes

Your ZIP code is the strongest predictor of health and longevity.¹ The same person could achieve a vastly different health outcome depending on where they live — and what health inequities they encounter.

**Neighborhood A**  Ranked the healthiest neighborhood in town

- Bike lanes and no litter
- Fresh food nearby
- Good school nearby and minimal crime
- Parks and sidewalks for physical activity

**Life expectancy**

82 years

- Health maintenance and condition management
- Engagement, high work performance

**Neighborhood B**  Ranked most unhealthy neighborhood in town

- Long commute and poor public transit access
- No fresh food nearby
- High levels of crime and violence
- Poor air quality

**Life expectancy**

71 years

- Chronic stress, tobacco use, prediabetes
- Missed workdays and high workers’ compensation costs

**14 years in only 3 miles**

People in the Armour Hills neighborhood of Kansas City, Missouri, live 14 years longer on average compared with people living in Blue Hills — 3 miles away.²

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KP’s Social Health Strategy at Work

IDENTIFY SOCIAL NEEDS/RISKS

1. Social Needs
2. Brief Social Health Screener
3. PEARLS
4. PATH

Delivered through KPHC (Staff Entry)
KP.org (Patient Entry)
Phone IVR
Tablet

Results stored in National Standard Questionnaires

CONNECT

THrive LOCAL
Enabling connections to community resources

MEmber INITIATIVES
Connecting patients to non-medical services provided by KP

FOLLOW-UP

- Customize care plans to reflect social health context of members
- Best practice alerts integrated into KPHC to trigger re-screening or connecting to address needs
- Reconnect with members to confirm needs are met

Connecting people to community-based resources and services can save $2,443 per person per year in health care costs.*