Setting the Stage for Collecting, Using, and Sharing SDOH Data

Only 20 percent of our health is determined by the healthcare we receive. The other 80 percent is determined by social and economic factors.

Key Findings from AHIMA-NORC Survey of Health Information Professionals

 Almost eight out of 10 report that their organization collects SDOH data.

Challenges to collecting, sharing, and using complete and accurate SDOH data include:

- Lack of standardization and integration of data into an individual's medical record
- Insufficient training and education on how to capture, collect, code, and use data
- Limited use of data to communicate between healthcare providers and community-based referral organizations

AHIMA Policy Recommendations:

- Define a set of standardized, clinically valid, and actionable SDOH data elements for collection
- Consider providing financial incentives to provider and plans to collect, share, and use SDOH data
- Federal financial and technical support is needed for workforce training and education
- Funding, technical resources and infrastructure are needed to support coordination and connectivity between healthcare providers and community-based referral organizations

What are social determinants of health?

Social determinants of health (SDOH) include where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health and quality of life outcomes and risks.

When SDOH data is appropriately collected, used, and securely shared, it can play a critical role in improving health and healthcare outcomes.

How Can I Learn More?

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