Indiana Patient Safety Center
of the Indiana Hospital Association

Health Equity Toolkit 2022

Patient Safety Awareness

Your guide to raising awareness among staff, patients, and families

Patient Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

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To build a Culture of Health—where every person, no matter where they live, has an equal opportunity to live the healthiest life possible—we must improve people's opportunities to be healthier in the places where they live, learn, work and play. Are you aware of the circumstances in your community that can impact how healthy it is?

Health Equity – Use these images, messages, and links in your public social media and internal staff education.

Clinical Messages

Message 1: The COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate impact on people of color has accelerated the integration of health equity into health care strategy playbooks across the nation. Within health care settings, from urban to rural and from hospitals to ambulatory care sites and clinics, there is renewed focus on efforts to advance health equity. Furthermore, there is growing recognition that a commitment to promoting equitable practices is tied to the core work of improving quality and patient safety. Learn how to achieve health equity in your organizations with the AHA's Institute for Diversity and Health Equity Toolkit.

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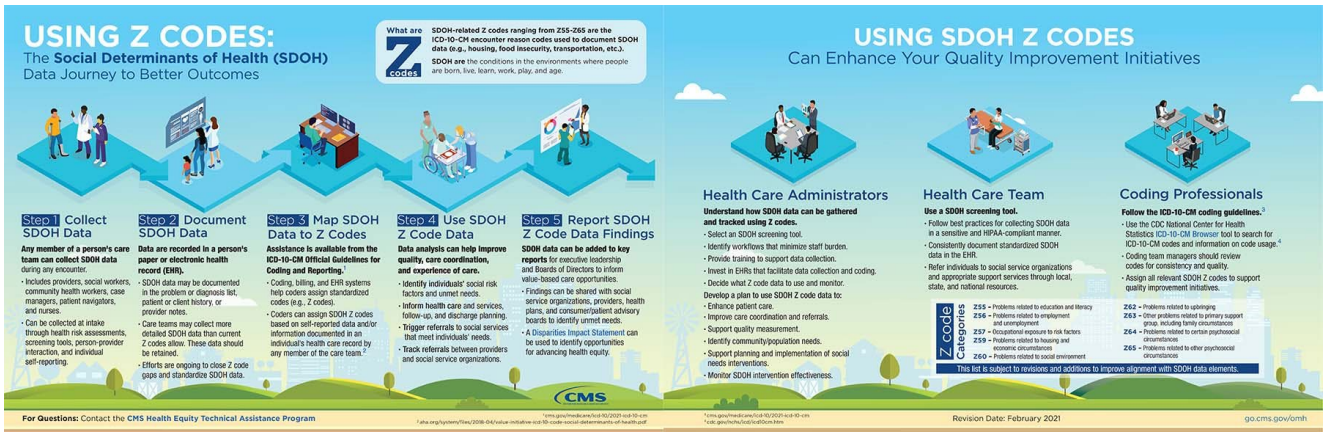
Message 2: Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, and age. Z Codes- ICD-10-CM codes that are specific to SDOH, range from Z55-Z65, and include social influencers of housing, food insecurity, transportation, etc. To begin your data journey to better outcomes for your community, follow the steps in this CMS Tool for using Z Codes.



Community Messages

Message 3: For the first time in our history, the United States is raising a generation of children who may live sicker and shorter lives than their parents. In 2020, we witnessed the steepest plunge in life expectancy since World War II, [largely fueled by the coronavirus pandemic](). Reversing this trend will of course depend on healthy choices by each of us. But not everyone in America has the same opportunities to be healthy. We know that the drivers of inequitable social, economic, built, and physical conditions within and across place and race can dramatically reduce opportunities for better health and well-being. Learn more about the life expectancy in your neighborhood and how it compares with others: [Life Expectancy: could where you live influence how long you live?]()

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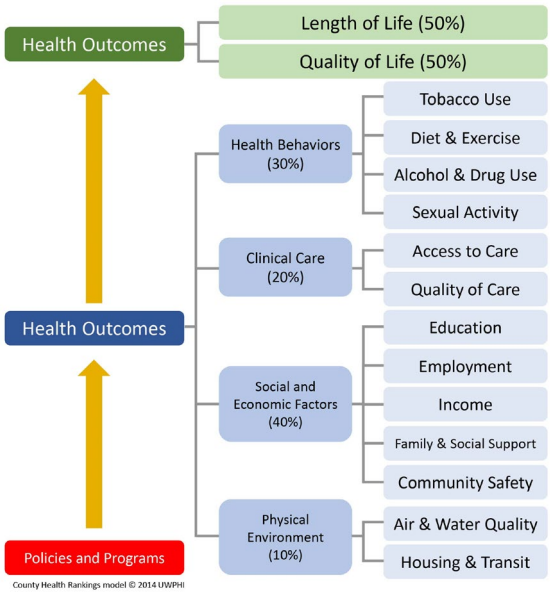
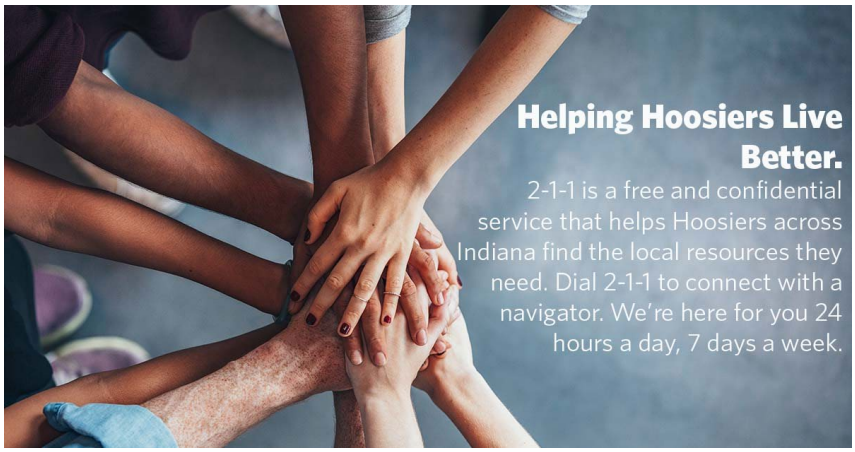
Both Clinical & Community Messages

Message 4: Health is more than what happens at the doctor's office. A wide range of factors influence how long and how well we live from education and income to what we eat and how we move to the quality of our housing and the safety of our neighborhoods. [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](), a program of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, is working to improve health outcomes for all and to close the health gaps between those with the most and least opportunities for good health. Visit the website to learn more about your community.



Message 5:



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Did you know that Indiana has a program through the Office of Healthy Opportunities, that can connect you to resources if you are between jobs, need childcare, healthcare, food, housing, transportation, or are impacted by substance use or personal safety? Indiana 211 is a free service that connects Hoosiers with help and answers from thousands of health and human service agencies and resources right in their local communities - quickly, easily, and confidentially. Visit the Indiana 211 Connect website for more information.

Additional Resources

A variety of resources are available to support your Health Equity campaign. Check out the websites below for information and tools and use the video links in your education and social media.

NEW 10 Questions Boards Can Answer to Advance Equity | AHA Trustee Services
NEW Mapping US Medicare Disparities | CMS
NEW Social Determinants of Health in Rural Communities Toolkit
NEW Food Insecurity and the Role of Hospitals
NEW Understanding the Social Determinants of Health for Rural Healthcare Teams
Updated CMS study on top 5 Z codes
Updated AHA ICD 10 SDoH Update
Updated AHRQ National Health Care Quality & Disparities Report
Find out how your county fares with social determinants of health
Healthy People 2030 data-driven national objectives
CDC resource to help communities address social determinants of health
Social Determinants of health for rural people

Printable Resources

AHA ICD 10 SDoH Update
CMS Tool for using Z Codes
PRAPARE Assessment Tool for SDOH