



Community Health Systems Lab Fact Sheet



Assessing the Impact of Health-Related Social Needs

- Unmet health-related social needs (HRSNs) are associated with chronic diseases such as diabetes, asthma, and HIV
- Unmet HRSNs are associated with missed primary care appointments and higher healthcare costs



Optimizing Screening and Referral Interventions

- Implementing HRSN screening and referral interventions is scalable and feasible within large health systems
- Clinician engagement in screening and referring influences the reach and adoption of the interventions
- Using Implementation Science methods and a Learning Health Systems approach is valuable in evaluating interventions and executing quality improvement initiatives



Integrating Community Health Workers (CHWs)

- Highly functional CHW programs require robust training, supportive supervision structures, community involvement, and data feedback loops
- Standardized workflows, CHW accompaniment, clinician champions, administrative liaisons, & quality improvement initiatives support health system CHW integration
- Integration of CHWs is highly effective in connecting patients with social services



Implementing Global Health Models to Advance Health Equity

- Global learning approaches are effective but not well-defined, not frequently used, and lack implementation strategies and evaluation measures
- Global CHW models can be applied to address HRSNs and community-level disparities
- Global learning experiences are heterogeneous but, when applied to HRSNs, community engagement is a universal theme

