

Study considers social determinants of health

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Patients with social needs experience a higher number of hospitalizations, obesity, prediabetes and Type 2 diabetes, finds a new study from the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis on the social determinants of health.

Within the study, patients with [social needs](#) also were disproportionately older, female, Black, uninsured, and living in low-income and high-unemployment neighborhoods, compared with those without what's known as a "Z-code," which are symptoms that are not tied to a specific disorder but still need treatment.

The study found that medical providers faced barriers at multiple levels in documenting social determinants of health.

The paper, "The adoption of [social determinants](#) of [health](#) documentation in clinical settings," was published in the print edition of the journal *Health Services Research* earlier this year. The lead author is Maura Kepper, a research assistant professor at the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis.

More information: Maura M. Kepper et al, The adoption of social determinants of health documentation in clinical settings, *Health Services Research* (2022). [DOI: 10.1111/1475-6773.14039](https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6773.14039)

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