Health Begins Where We Live, Learn, and Work

The **social determinants of health** (SDOH) are the conditions in which people are born, grow up, live, work, and age. According to the Centers for Disease Control, SDOH have a lot more to do with a person’s health than genetics or even personal health behaviors.¹

**Social Determinants of Health include:**

- Food Security and Access
- Educational Attainment
- Access to Affordable Housing
- Early Childhood Development
- Access to Healthcare
- Job Status and Income
- Discrimination and Social Support

Human Services directly address social determinants of health through programs that support children, youth, persons with disabilities, the poor, the elderly, and the sick. The people of Illinois are healthier when they have the necessary support structure to overcome challenges. This is the heart of what Illinois’ Human Services network does every day. **It’s why we exist.**

**Investing in Human Services will not only improve health, it will save money.**

One example of these savings is a study that showed investing in supportive housing for 177 people saved Illinois $400,000 on mental health hospitalizations and $183,000 on Medicaid-reimbursable healthcare costs over two years.³

---

2. This ranking incorporates several key measures of health, including length of life, the percentage of population reporting that they’re in poor health, and the number of babies born with low birth weight. "America’s Health Rankings: Illinois.” United Health Foundation. http://www.americashealthrankings.org/IL

---

Illinois’ overall health ranking

**30th**

Investing in Human Services is a Smart Public Health Strategy

75% Genes and Health Behaviors

25% Social Determinants of Health

**WWW.ILLINOISPARTNERS.ORG**