

## Title

Co-developing a social health research agenda

## Background

Kaiser Permanente's Social Needs Network for Evaluation and Translation (SONNET) works with operational partners as a social care Learning Health System to understand how to improve members' social health. Senior leaders in partnership with SONNET recognized a need to develop a research agenda for social health learning and action.

## Objective

SONNET aimed to identify and prioritize a social health research agenda to guide investment in the most urgent and impactful activities.

## Methods

746 operational leaders, clinicians, researchers, and staff were invited to participate in a concept mapping study (Trochim, 1989). First, participants responded to the prompt "One thing I wish we knew more about to advance my work addressing social health..." 515 responses were condensed into 92 summary statements. Respondents then grouped and rated each summary statement 1-10 based on 1) importance and 2) urgency. Member-checking occurred at each stage.

## Results

The concept mapping process resulted in 11 topics across four themes of operational, strategic, partnership, and empirical activities. The top ten priorities based on importance and urgency were:

1. Align social health care delivery and operational goals
2. Build implementation support for social health integration into clinics
3. Make long-term investments in social health activities
4. Train providers to discuss and address social health
5. Identify which social risks to prioritize to have the biggest impact
6. Support staff who work directly with members impacted by social needs
7. Learn how to address social needs in a culturally competent manner
8. Design sustainable interventions that address the structural factors that impact health
9. Ascertain the social health resources members most desire
10. Create language-concordant social health tools

## Conclusion

These results offer a roadmap of areas that are of highest priority for implementation and further study. Concept mapping can be a useful engagement approach to identifying and prioritizing social health research questions.