

Focus on Health Equity: Insights to Drive Transformation

“It is time for large employers ... to address the underlying conditions that impact the health of employees and their families.”

Business Group on Health

CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

A tool to identify socially vulnerable communities

Industry Imperative

Addressing social drivers of health (SDOH) and health equity is a leading issue across health sectors:

- CMS has developed strategy and provided substantial funding (Medicare and Medicaid)
- Health plans are required to screen for social needs through new a NCQA measure and stratify reporting by race/ethnicity (2023)
- Hospitals are required to screen for social need through two new measures (2023)

These actions indicate the issue is [here to stay](#)

Integrating socio-demographic data sources with your healthcare analytics will position you to:

1. Identify health disparity trends, impacts, and opportunities
2. Report findings to key stakeholders, clients, committees, and executive leadership
3. Formulate action plans to prioritize and address disparities – implement change
4. Monitor impact to health, risk, utilization and cost – iterate and refine

Leveraging the CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), Merative used your Health Insights database to estimate the savings opportunity if employees and their families living in neighborhoods with **high poverty** (at the 90th percentile) reduced their Emergency Room usage

CLIENT ABC Potential Impact

Visits per 1000	Poverty 90 th Percentile	All Others	Disparity
Emergency Room	317	274	16%
Preventive Adult	281	387	-27%

Savings Opportunity*=\$2,784 K

* If high poverty area emergency room use were to reduce their usage to the same levels as non-poverty areas.

Achieving the Potential

There are many approaches to addressing SDOH to drive down ER use:

- A case management program focused on SDOH reduced ER visits by 50%¹
- Care planning and connection to community services reduced ER visits by 46%²

Merative can help you achieve your potential through advanced analytics and expert advice.

¹ <https://www.reliasmedia.com/articles/146012-focusing-on-social-determinants-of-health-can-reduce-ed-revisit-rates>

² <https://www.epic.com/epic/post/46-fewer-ed-visits-addressing-social-determinants-health>

Employers are taking actions across key SDOH categories including:

- Healthcare access
- Food insecurity
- Transportation
- Child Care
- Housing instability
- Income

