

- **What specific SDOH challenges have you seen to have the most impact on health? What areas have changed most during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Below please find three articles, from the journal *Policy Insights from the Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, addressing behavioral and social effects of the pandemic on children.

- [Equity-Focused, Trauma-Informed Policy Can Mitigate COVID-19's Risks to Children's Behavioral Health](#) (ADD AUTHORS)
 - [Potential Socioeconomic Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Neural Development, Mental Health, and K-12 Educational Achievement](#) (NIMH funding) (ADD AUTHORS)
 - [Coping With the Pandemic: Implementing Social and Emotional Learning in the California K-12 School System](#) (ADD AUTHORS)
- **Where do you see opportunities for better coordination and alignment between community organizations, public health entities, and health organizations? What role can Congress play in facilitating such coordination so that effective social determinant interventions can be developed?**

The SDOH Caucus and Congress have an opportunity to play a critical role to support additional research to address the numerous, persistent scientific questions about how social determinants influence health. Additional research is needed to better understand why social determinants affect some people more than others. While several individual institutes at the NIH are supporting research in this area, the investment is insufficient. A recent report, [Trans-NIH Research Opportunities in the Basic Behavioral and Social Sciences](#), identified it as a promising and emerging area of research not adequately funded by NIH. "Social interactions and influences on health. The current NIH bBSSR portfolio focuses predominately on the individual and, to a lesser extent, broader social units such as schools, workplaces, and communities. The social interactions and networks that connect individuals with the social units, however, appear understudied...more research is needed on the influence of dyads, families, and small group interactions and networks on health."




FABBS encourages that future legislation on social determinants and annual budgets for the National Institutes of Health include meaningful investments in research on the social determinants of health.

- **What potential do you see in pooling funding from different sources to achieve aligned goals in addressing SDOH? How could Congress and federal agencies provide state and communities with more guidance regarding how they can blend or braid funds?**

The report: [U.S. Health in International Perspective Shorter Lives, Poorer Health \(2013\)](#) by the NASEM is an excellent resource on the topic of social determinants. The report identifies the important role of NIH to support a coordinated research agenda. "RECOMMENDATION 3: The National Institutes of Health and other research funding agencies should commit to a coordinated portfolio of investigator-initiated and invited research devoted to understanding the factors responsible for the U.S. health disadvantage and potential solutions, including lessons that can be learned from other countries."

- **Given the evidence base about the importance of the early years in influencing lifelong health trajectories, what are the most promising opportunities for addressing SDOH and promoting equity for children and families? What could Congress do to accelerate progress in addressing SDOH for the pediatric population?**

Below please find three articles, from the journal *Policy Insights from the Behavioral and Brain Sciences* on providing quality care to young children to support good health.

- [Back to Basics: Developmental Catalysts of Quality Improvement in Early Education and Care](#), Emily C. Hanno , Stephanie M. Jones, Nonie K. Lesaux
- [Child Care Policy as an Anti-Poverty Strategy: The Need to Address Neurophysiological Self-Regulation](#), Steven J. Holochwost , Lindsay A. Gomes, Cathi B. Propper, Eleanor D. Brown, Iheoma U. Iruka 
- [Improving Preschool Accountability Systems: Bringing Individual Children's Experiences Back to Child Policy](#), Terri J. Sabol