

SONNET

Social Needs Network for Evaluation and Translation

SUMMER 2023

New SONNET report provides insights on social needs and health care utilization among older adults

Led by David Mosen at Kaiser Permanente Northwest, this project points to potential focus areas for social health interventions

The latest report from SONNET's Evaluation and Research Committee ([ERC](#)) focuses on **social needs among Kaiser Permanente Northwest members age 65 and older** — and on how these needs are linked to health care utilization.

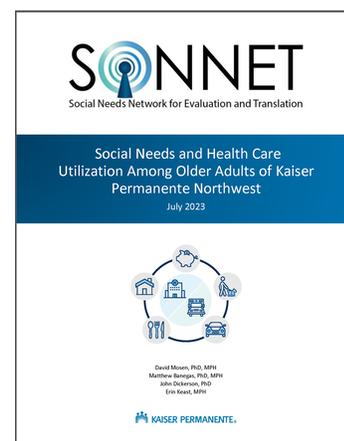
Led by ERC member [David Mosen, PhD, MPH](#), the project combined electronic health record data and neighborhood data with results from Kaiser Permanente's Medicare Total Health Assessment survey to better understand how social needs contribute to emergency department (ED) and inpatient hospital encounters in older adults. [READ REPORT](#).



David Mosen

Snapshot of key findings:

- **Having more social needs was linked to higher ED utilization and hospital admissions.** For example, members with 2 social needs were **98%** more likely to have an ED visit and **65%** more likely to have 1 or more hospital admissions.
- **Financial strain, housing instability, and social isolation** were significantly linked to future ED use, and **financial strain** was significantly linked to future hospital admissions.



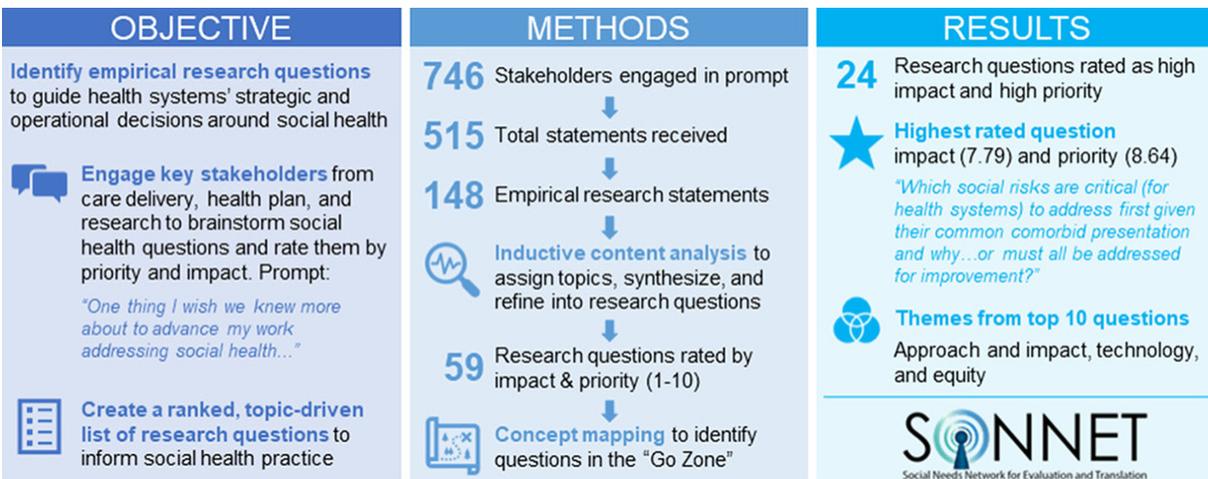
These findings point to **potential focus areas for social health interventions**: populations with 2 or more social needs and populations who are specifically facing financial strain, housing instability, or social isolation.

Featured publication

AJPM Focus highlights work by SONNET and its Evaluation and Research Committee to develop an empirical research agenda

Kaiser Permanente is just one of the nation's many health care systems that are prioritizing patients' social health. But with **limited evidence to guide social health integration strategies**, researchers need ways to identify the most relevant and important empirical research questions to pursue.

[Published recently in *AJPM Focus*](#), SONNET's latest peer-reviewed paper reports on results of a rigorous partner-driven process used to identify social health research opportunities. **The paper offers ranked and topic-driven lists as a guide for other researchers in this space** and can serve as an example for other systems interested in undertaking their own agenda-setting and social health initiatives.



Graphical abstract from *AJPM Focus* article

From our partners at SIREN

Check out the next webinar in SIREN's Methods Conversations series

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the **Social Interventions Research & Evaluation Network (SIREN)** is hosting a series of Methods Conversations for social care researchers. Next up in the series is a [September 12 webinar on natural experiments](#), which will focus on different quantitative approaches to evaluating natural social care experiments, including some of the specific challenges and opportunities in applying these methods.

- **When:** Tuesday, September 12, 11 a.m - 12 p.m. PT / 2 - 3 p.m. ET
- **Where:** Online via Zoom

- **Who:** Presented by Miguel Marino and Jorge Kaufmann from Oregon Health and Science University

Register here

Stay in touch

We'd love to hear what you're working on! Email our team: sonnet@kp.org.

Did you miss the previous SONNET newsletter? [Read it here](#).

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Our SONNET Coordinating Center would like to acknowledge that our Seattle offices are on the ancestral lands and traditional territories of the Puget Sound Coast Salish People.

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