

Arizona Health Improvement Plan

Health in All Policies/ Social Determinants of Health

2024-2025 UPDATE



Updated December 2023



Acknowledgements

The Arizona Health Improvement Plan (AzHIP) was developed collaboratively with input from partners and stakeholders across the state.

The plan was recently updated in the Fall of 2023 with input from:

The AzHIP Steering Committee, composed of multi-sector leaders engaged in the public health system as well as Community partners and priority implementation team members.

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) thanks everyone who contributed their time, ideas, and expertise to building the AzHIP and the vision of Healthy People, Healthy Communities.

AzHIP

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Summary & Background

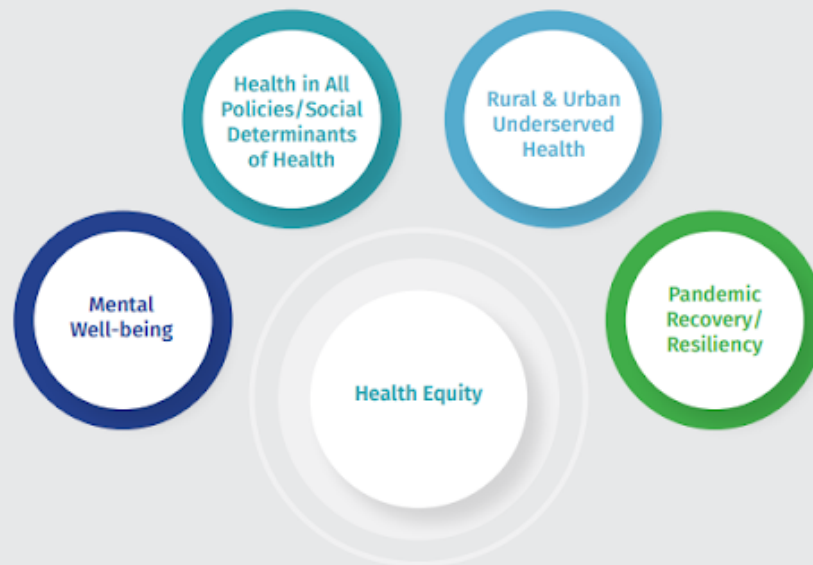
The Arizona Health Improvement Plan provides a structure and a venue bringing together a networked system of partners to improve the health of communities and individuals across Arizona. Driven by data and community participation, the AzHIP includes input from individuals and organizations who comprise the public health system. The plan aligns the state on common goals by enhancing non-traditional partnerships, focusing work on priority areas, breaking silos, and leveraging community health improvement plans (CHIPs) statewide. By identifying priorities specific to Arizona's needs, the plan can make the greatest impact on health promotion and disease prevention.

The first plan spanned 2016-2020 and described how ADHS and community partners and stakeholders worked together to address four cross-cutting issues and 13 health priority issues to significantly impact large numbers of Arizonans.

The process to set the new priorities for 2021-2025 included a collaborative approach informed by the State Health Assessment, which provides a snapshot of health and wellbeing in Arizona, presentations to stakeholders, a partner survey, and Summit participation. Centered on health equity, the AzHIP provides a unique opportunity to transform the health of our communities through strong, innovative partnerships.

The 2021-2025 AzHIP builds on the progress of the 2016-2020 AzHIP and consists of five strategic priorities which focus on underlying health issues and significant overarching health disparities faced by Arizonans, including impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a living document intended to be monitored and evolve during its duration.

AzHIP 2021 - 2025 Priorities



With the guidance of the AZHIP Steering Committee, a Core Team of subject matter experts and community leaders for each priority team drafted the vision, goals, and overarching strategies of this plan.

To ensure the **5-year plan** is flexible and can account for emerging health issues, the initial action plans focus on **18-24 months** of work. In the Fall of 2023, the AzHIP plan was updated using a collaborative approach informed by dialogue with stakeholders at numerous sessions.

Where appropriate, the priority teams leveraged additional subject matter experts as subgroups to bring a detailed focus to proposed actions. Key in the development of each priority were statewide planning sessions to capture and incorporate community input.

Additionally, priority teams considered the following:



As part of the integration of health equity, attention to cultural humility is embedded in all of the 2021-2025 priorities. Cultural humility acknowledges that someone's culture can only be appreciated by learning from that person. Attributing traits or attitudes to members of a certain group may not be accurate or helpful in understanding them.

The AzHIP will be implemented by a wide range of public and private partners, including:

State agencies

Local health departments

Community-based organizations

Employers and private organizations

Universities

Local non-profits

Other local agencies and organizations

Priorities

Numerous community and stakeholder forums were held during the planning of the 2021-2025 Arizona Health Improvement Plan (AzHIP). In total, over 500 individuals participated from both private and public organizations across the state. These forums were designed to ensure the AzHIP priorities were meaningful and addressed the most important issues to Arizonans.

Note: Leading organizations of tactics and/or action steps have been noted in parentheses.

Health in All Policies / Social Determinants of Health

Social Determinants of Health: the impact of “place” on health

The social determinants of health are defined by the CDC as the “conditions in the places where people live, learn, work and play that affect a wide range of health and quality of life risks and outcomes.”

The social determinants of health include five key areas, each of which reflect a multitude of issues:

Economic stability

Education

Social and community context

Health care access and quality

Neighborhood and built environment

Health in All Policies / Social Determinants of Health

During the AzHIP 2020 Annual Summit, housing was overwhelmingly selected as the primary issue for the social determinants of health priority area. Housing is a significant concern in Arizona and among Arizona's public health community. Having a safe, stable, affordable place to call home is a critical component for people to live healthy lives. When families have to spend a large portion of their income on housing, they may not have enough money to pay for things like food and health care. Families are also more likely to experience stress, mental health problems, and are at an increased risk of disease. Housing is generally considered affordable when a household pays less than 30% of their income on housing. In Arizona, 87.4%% of Extremely Low Income households spent more than 30% of their income on housing in 2021*. Healthy People 2030, the National 10-year plan to improve health issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has set a target of no more than 25.5%, encouraging states to expand policies that make housing more affordable.

While updating the AzHIP Plan in 2023, there was recognition of significant statewide efforts being made to address the housing crisis in Arizona. The AzHIP SDOH Implementation Team determined that including other determinants of health in addition to housing would be valuable to collective efforts over the next two years. The vision now aligns with one of Healthy People 2030's five overarching goals specifically related to SDOH. Furthering this goal, the team added strategies that support HP 2030's focus on built environment, transportation, and access to food.

The Health in All Policies/Social Determinants of Health Action Plan complements significant work already being done throughout Arizona. The work continues to address the state's challenges by partnering with a multitude of advocates and organizations. The strategies, tactics, and actions are intended to be implemented over the next two years while embracing a long-term vision and goal.


* U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample.

VISION

Create social, physical, and economic environments that promote attaining the full potential for health and wellbeing for all.



STRATEGIES & INDICATORS



Reduce the proportion of Arizonans spending more than 30% of their income on housing

- Reduce the proportion of families that spend more than 30% of their income on housing

Create neighborhoods and environments that promote health and safety


- Reduce the number of days people are exposed to unhealthy air
- Reduce the number of heat-related deaths and emergency department visits

Promote safe and active transportation

- Increase trips to work made by mass transit
- Increase the proportion of adults who walk or bike to get places
- Reduce deaths from motor vehicle crashes

Improve health by making nutritious foods available

- Reduce household food insecurity and hunger
- Increase % of eligible individuals enrolling in SNAP and WIC
- Increase the number of farmers markets accepting Senior Farmer Markets Nutrition Program and Farmer Markets Nutrition Program



Reduce the proportion of Arizonans spending more than 30% of their income on housing

Tactic A

Consider and integrate where appropriate, health considerations into the State's Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP)

- Drive increase in participation/input in the QAP (focus groups with targeted public health professionals/populations/communities). (ADHS, Vitalyst Health Foundation, ADOH, LISC)
- Review how other states/jurisdictions have incorporated health into their QAP and identify opportunities to leverage best practices. (ADOH)

Tactic B


Enhance coordination across the state on housing issues

- Track progress and align efforts with the Governor's Interagency Council on Housing & Homelessness (ADHS, ADOH, AHCCCS, DES)
- Track progress and align efforts with the Governor's Roadmap for Housing and Human Services (ADHS, ADOH, AHCCCS, DES)
- Identify specific gaps in which municipal governments can assist/collaborate with state agencies on promoting public health initiatives (City of Tempe)

Tactic C

Support use of Medicaid billing codes among community-based organizations to increase ability to access federal resources for services

- Develop and deliver training to AHCCCS providers. (AHCCCS)
- Develop or expand meaningful partnerships between housing and AHCCCS providers. (AHCCCS)
- Identify gaps in billing for social determinants of health and determine how to address them. (AHCCCS)



Reduce the proportion of Arizonans spending more than 30% of their income on housing

Tactic D

Integrate economic support services (e.g., financial literacy, Earned Income Tax Credit, childcare, etc.) in public health programs

- Promote earned income tax credit and other economic support services through public health programs. (ADHS)
- Incorporate SOAR initiative (homeless) SSB/Social Security. (AHCCCS, ADOH)
- Enhance awareness of opportunities of EITC and financial literacy (529 accounts). (Wildfire)
- Utilize community health navigators to promote services

Tactic E


Monitor and support financing and funding tools available to develop and preserve housing affordability

- Implement Arizona's Housing and Health Opportunities (H2O) Demonstration starting October 2024 (AHCCCS)
- Review tax credit criteria to increase approval capacity for Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) proposals (AHCCCS)
- Provide support service dollars to LIHTC properties following award (AHCCCS)

Tactic F

Utilize supportive housing to improve health outcomes

- Increase access and utilization to social services for supportive housing residents. (Arizona Housing, Inc.)
- Partner with organizations to create standard operating procedures for housing supportive services. Including identifying mandatory training courses for housing support staff. (AHCCCS with AzHIP and Community Organizations)



Reduce the proportion of Arizonans spending more than 30% of their income on housing

Tactic G

Improve information systems and data sharing between medical and other care systems (human services) to facilitate coordination/referral of individuals to the right resources and track outcomes

- Align stakeholders with a closed loop referral system to ensure appropriate referral was made and service delivered. (AHCCCS, Contexture)
- Establish data sharing agreements to ensure partners gain real-time insights for the rapid detection of current and potential health hazards and threats. (ADHS)
- Ensure the Master Person Index facilitates linkages and information exchange between disparate systems. (ADHS)

Tactic H

Increase awareness and understanding of the connection between health and housing

- Promote adoption of the Home is where it all starts campaign (Home Matters to Arizona)
- Increase awareness and adoption of social determinants of health into affordable housing development and community development projects. (Home Matters to Arizona)

Tactic I

Develop actions to contribute to addressing tribal determinants of health needs in consultation with tribes

- Consult and engage with tribal leaders and communities on housing, and health, human services, and transportation on an ongoing basis. (ADOH, ADHS, AHCCCS, DES, ADOT)
- Provide training on tribal housing needs. (Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care)



Create neighborhoods and environments that promote health and safety

Tactic A

Engage communities in improving the built environment

- Consider and integrate where appropriate health considerations into General Plan updates.
- Encourage walkability in municipal codes and development projects.
- Build partnerships with municipal and state Parks and Recreation departments and other outdoor recreation organizations. (ADHS, AZ Health Zone, AHCCCS)
- Support the implementation of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (Arizona State Parks & Trails (ASPT), ADHS, AZ Health Zone)
- Complete a landscape analysis and map to identify areas receiving and not receiving support for built environment projects to inform future areas of work. (ADHS, AZ Health Zone)
- Increase capacity for built environment work to include pilot testing walkability audit training and toolkit (ADHS, AZ Health Zone)
- Conduct a built environment workshop for local partners to increase knowledge of built environment strategies and available funding sources for projects. (ADHS, AZ Health Zone, ASPT)
- Support communities in utilizing the Active Communities Tool or similar assessment and action planning tool to support built environment changes. (ADHS, AZ Health Zone)



Create neighborhoods and environments that promote health and safety

Tactic B

Engage communities in funding prioritization

- Increase the number of smaller-scale transportation projects and activities utilizing funds from the Transportation Alternatives Program for Greater Arizona (ADOT)
- Codify large funding sources for the built environment (e.g. LIHTC, trust fund, investors, philanthropy) to require SDOH-specific investments. (Arizona Department of Housing, Arizona Housing Coalition, Home Matters to Arizona)
- Identify new funding opportunities that support innovation in the built environment. (Home Matters to Arizona, Arizona Housing Coalition)
- Identify partners that can help with infrastructure funding. (ASPT)

Tactic C

Mitigate the impacts of extreme heat

- Implement the Arizona Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan (ADHS)
- Improve development standards for engineered shade options (parking lots, private outdoor spaces, and public sidewalks) (City of Tempe)
- Increase shade percentage requirement for projects seeking alternate landscape standards or increased surface parking (City of Tempe)



Promote safe and active transportation

Tactic A

Enhance the connection between health and transportation

- Support mixed density projects along transportation corridors. (Vitalyst)
- Promote SDOH screening and referrals for transportation via CommunityCares. (Contexture)
- Increase percentage of transit stops with shelter and amenities. (City of Tempe)
- Identify Active Transportation projects. (ADHS, AZ Health Zone, ADOT, COGs, local coalitions)
- Support the development and implementation of the Arizona Active Transportation Safety Action Plan (ADHS, ADOT)

Tactic B

Increase safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all Arizonans

- Support municipalities that have adopted the Vision Zero approach and encourage others to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries among all road users. (ADHS, City of Tempe)
- Explore opportunities that expand a Safe System Approach (SSA) to address roadway safety. (ADHS)
- Support the implementation of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety State of Arizona Highway Safety Plan. (ADHS, ADOT, MAG, GOHS)
- Support the development and implementation of ADOT's Arizona 2024 Strategic Highway Safety Plan. (ADOT, ADHS, DES)
- Increase public awareness and community programming to decrease High Severity Traffic Crashes. (City of Tempe)



Improve health by making nutritious foods available

Tactic A

Connect communities to food

- Promote access to and increase the number of farmers markets and retailers participating in Double Up Food Bucks and EBT acceptance. (Arizona State Nutrition Action Committee (SNAC))
- Support and engage with the Arizona Food System Network's food food action plan including mobile food access.
- Promote SDOH screening and referrals for food access via CommunityCares. (Contexture, ADHS)
- Support worksites in implementing food service guidelines to improve access to healthy food during work hours. (ADHS)
- Increase autonomy for participants at food banks and food pantries through implementation of the Nutrition Pantry Program. (ADHS, AZ Health Zone)
- Implement a Food as Medicine Program to improve access to healthy foods for individuals with chronic conditions (Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona)

Tactic B

Increase nutrition assistance redemption rates

- Increase access and redemption of federal nutrition programs administered by ADE, DES, and ADHS. (SNAC)
- Increase Senior FMNP and WIC FMNP utilization at approved farmers markets. (ADHS, AZ Health Zone, Pinnacle Prevention, DES)

Appendix

Implementation Partners

Arizona Advisory Council on Indian Health Care

Arizona Department of Economic Security

Arizona Department of Health Services

Arizona Department of Housing

Arizona Department of Transportation

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

Arizona Housing Coalition

Arizona Housing, Inc.

Arizona State Parks & Trails

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona

City of Tempe

Contexture

Corporation for Supportive Housing

Equality Health Foundation

Governor's Office of Highway Safety

Home Matters to Arizona

LISC Phoenix | Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Maricopa Association of Governments

Maricopa County Department of Public Health

Pima County Health Department

Pinnacle Prevention

S.T.A.R. - Stand Together and Recover Centers, Inc.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

Valley Leadership

Valley of the Sun United Way

Vitalyst Health Foundation

Wildfire: Igniting Community Action to End Poverty in Arizona



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