The Gravity Project

What is Gravity Project?

A collaborative public-private initiative launched in May 2019 with the goal to develop consensus-driven data standards to support the collection, use, and exchange of data to address the social determinants of health (SDOH).

Why are SDOH Data Standards like those developed by the Gravity Project important?

- Social care data standards establish a shared understanding of critical concepts across the ecosystem in the name of health equity.
- Social care data standards allow for data visibility, a critical aspect of data justice.
- Social care data standards create common agreements and methods for exchanging information within communities to allow for analysis and upstream, structural interventions.

Quick Links:

For General Information:
- Contact Us (at gravityproject@hl7.org)
- Join the Gravity Project
- Upcoming Meeting Information
- Sponsors and Members
- Gravity Project Website
- Gravity Overview Slides

For Implementation:
- Social Risk Terminology Value Sets
- Clinical Care STU2 FHIR IG
- Pilots Workstream
- For Build:
  - Social Risk Domain Build

From the US HHS Strategic Approach to Addressing Social Determinants of Health to Advance Health Equity:

Addressing SDOH involves coordination across sectors including the government, community-based organizations, health care providers, health plans, and other private sector partners, recognizing that many factors contribute to disparities in health outcomes.

From the ONC Social Determinants of Health Information Exchange Toolkit: Foundational Elements for Communities:

Social risk data standards as a fundamental element of social care information exchange.
An SDOH Lexicon

- Health Equity: Health equity is the state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health.
- Social Determinants of Health (SDOH): “The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age,” which are “shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources.

SDOH can offer both positive and negative forces:
- **Positive Forces**
  - Protective Factors: Characteristics or strengths of individuals, families, communities or societies that act to mitigate risks and promote positive well-being and healthy development.
- **Negative Forces**
  - Social Risks: Adverse social conditions associated with poor health.
  - Social Needs: Patient-prioritized social needs.


Team

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<th>Program Management Office (PMO)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa Candelora</td>
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<td><strong>Position:</strong> The Gravity Project Program Manager; Da Vinci Patient Cost Transparency Co-Lead</td>
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<th>Corey Smith</th>
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<td><strong>Position:</strong> The Gravity Project Terminology Director; Pilot Workstream Lead</td>
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<th>Lenel James</th>
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<td><strong>Position:</strong> Gravity Project Coordinator and Terminology Analyst</td>
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<th>Sara Behal</th>
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<td><strong>Position:</strong> Gravity Project Coordinator and Terminology Analyst</td>
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Executive Committee (EC) Members

Gravity Project Website vs Confluence

The Gravity Project website exists as a public communication tool to highlight Gravity’s work. The Gravity Project Confluence is a fundamental workspace housing our labor and deliverables.

Announcements

**HL7 Response and Input Comments on the HTI-1 Proposed Rule**

Health Level Seven International (HL7) recently submitted comments for ONC’s Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Certification Program Updates, Algorithm Transparency, and Information Sharing proposed rule (HTI-1). In addition to HL7 leadership and Policy Advisory Committee, HL7 Work Groups contributing to these comments include Clinical Decision Support, Clinical Quality Information, Devices, Gender Harmony Project, Orders and Observations and Patient Empowerment. Gravity Project also provided input. View HL7’s comments [here](#).
Gravity Project Refreshes Strategic Goals and Transitions PMO – March 31, 2023

See here for an announcement and update from the Gravity Project, including refreshed Strategic Goals, transition of the Program Management Office from EMI Advisors to Point-of-Care Partners (POCP), Technology Workstream Opportunity to Get Engaged with open public calls and upcoming Connectathons, and a reminder on the Gravity Project Pilots Affinity Group meeting series occurring the last Thursday each month.

Civitas Networks for Health in Partnership with Gravity Project® Announces Four New Pilot Sites to Further Implementation of SDOH Data Standards - April 11, 2023

The Gravity Project Pilots Workstream is pleased to work with our partners on this initiative to improve accessibility, knowledge, and capabilities for exchange of Gravity terminology standards with a focus on public health and health equity use cases. Please see here for an announcement of the Four New Pilot Sites.

CMS/HL7 Connectathon July 18-20, 2023

Join the Gravity Project in attending the CMS/HL7 FHIR Connectathon. Learn more and register here.

NIDDK RFA-DK-22-038: Pilot Interventions to Integrate Social Care and Medical Care to Improve Health Equity (R01—Clinical Trial Required), Letter of intent due Sep 19th

This NIDDK Funding Opportunity Announcement will support pilot and feasibility trials to test interventions that involve screening for and addressing adverse SDOH, also called social risks, during a health care visit. The overarching goal of this FOA is to develop pragmatic approaches that can be used in healthcare settings to reduce health disparities in diseases within the mission of NIDDK and achieve health equity, especially among individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups, rural populations, sexual and gender minority groups, and other socioeconomically disadvantaged and medically underserved communities. A letter of intent is due Sep 19. Learn more here.

Social Media

The Gravity Project is now official on social media! We invite you to follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter. We will be using the social media platforms for relevant project and SDOH data integration related communications. Help us spread the word!

Join the Gravity Project!

The success of the Gravity Project depends on the contribution of volunteers who are eager to make rapid progress on the standardization of social determinants of health data. We need experts to contribute to and validate definitions for SDH related data elements and value sets. Participants are asked to join the project at any time either as a Committed Party or Other Interested Party as part of the HL7 Consensus Process. To join the project, sign up here.

- To check your project status, click here. If you wish to change your status from Other Interested Party to Committed Party please send an email request to Gravityproject@hl7.org
- NOTE: Both member types can submit comments on project documentation. However, only Committed Parties may vote on final documentation. If you would like to have voting rights, please change your status or join the project as a Committed Party.