



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

COLORADO EVALUATION  
AND ACTION LAB

***Social Determinants of Health in Colorado: Spatial Analysis of Housing Affordability, Health Issues, and Health Care Accessibility***

A burgeoning area of cross systems research focuses on the social determinants of health (SDoH): “the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.” Despite a known relationship between housing and physical/mental health and the importance of health care accessibility, the geographic context of this link is less explored. Using statewide data at the census-tract level, this study will employ Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to investigate the spatial relationships between asthma prevalence, lead exposure, and mental health (defined as suicide mortality, alcohol consumption, and substance overdose) as compared to availability of affordable housing and medical/mental health care accessibility. These relationships will be assessed using spatial analytic techniques, including multivariate analysis. This study will result in a series of maps that can assist the state and other governmental partners to more effectively implement affordable housing and health care accessibility strategies that better address disparities in SDoH.

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