Measuring Social Risk

Vizient® is bridging data gaps with the development of the patent pending Vizient Vulnerability Index™ to support hospitals’ health equity efforts and improve community health.

A unique social needs index that serves as a singular source of clinical data at the neighborhood level

The Vizient Vulnerability Index integrates publicly available social determinants of health (SDOH) data from various U.S. government agencies, including the Census Bureau, Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide deeper insights regarding community needs.

When paired with Vizient Clinical Data Base insights, the Vizient Vulnerability Index can:

• Characterize patients’ social needs by identifying key SDOH factors driving vulnerabilities within the community.
• Provide insights about community vulnerability and patient outcomes that could drive potential interventions within a health system. For example, lack of transportation and food deserts are associated with specific risks including lack of primary care access and poor health outcomes.
• Contribute to a patient-centered, longitudinal approach to outcomes that extends beyond the inpatient acute-care focus.
• Identify peer hospitals in communities with similar SDOH challenges and those that have developed effective interventions or best practices.

Vizient Vulnerability Index fills critical gaps

A variety of public indexes exist to provide insights about individual SDOH, but none offer a holistic view at the local level. The Vizient Vulnerability Index closes this gap by leveraging insights from a range of public data about nine SDOH domains at the neighborhood level. To make sure a community’s vulnerability is estimated correctly, the index is tuned to life expectancy and tested against a variety of Vizient Clinical Data Base metrics.

Equipped with this level of insight, providers can see beyond their walls, gain a deeper understanding of their neighborhoods and begin to transform the health of their communities before a patient walks through the door.

To learn more, contact healthequity@vizientinc.com.