**Weighting Methodology**

The Mental Wellness Index comes with a set of default, recommended weights. These weights convey the relative importance of the measure groups to the MWI and the importance of the individual measures to the measure groups. To arrive at these weights, the team underwent the following process:

1. Review of Literature
2. Review of other health index measures
3. Arriving at Domain Weights
4. Arriving at Measure Weights
5. Validation of Weights
   1. Analytical Network Process Assessment with Expert Reviewers
   2. Cross-validation with other health indices

**Review of Literature:**

There is well documented evidence on the impact of social determinants of health[[1]](#footnote-1),[[2]](#footnote-2),[[3]](#footnote-3), access to health care, and morbidity and mortality on overall behavioral health. However, the relative contributions of each of those domains on mental health have not been well.

While general health and behavioral health represent different end points, our team instead reviewed literature that described the relative modifiable factors on overall health to inform conclusions on

**Review of other health index measures**

Subsequently, the team underwent a review of various composite health-related indices and their methods, including America’s Health Rankings, County Health Rankings, California’s Healthy Places Index, Child Opportunity Index 2.0, City Health Dashboard, Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index, Office of Minority Health’s (OMH) Minority Heath Social Vulnerability Index, and the Unmet Needs Score.

These frameworks / indices were examined based on the following features:

* Geographic level and scope
* Overall measure groups and weights
* Approach for weighting
* Individual measures processing
* Variable weighting schemes
* Validation techniques

Acknowledge up front that weighting scheme derived from literature has the same inherent limitations and biases as our data sources (deficit focused)

A brief summary of the findings is replicated below:

**Arriving at Domain Weights:**

Domain weights were assigned at to arrive at the domain weights,

**Arriving at Measure Weights:**

**Validation of Weights:**

About the Analytic Network Process

Goal: Identify the most important factors to community mental wellness

Decision Criteria:

* Relevancy to community mental health
* Most impacted by structural racism
* Most influenced by community and cultural assets

Alternatives:

1. Domain Categories
2. Measures within Domains

1. [Why Employers Must Focus on the Social Determinants of Mental Health - Michael T. Compton, Ruth S. Shim, 2020 (sagepub.com)](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0890117119896122c) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Social Determinants of Mental Health: Where We Are and Where We Need to Go (nih.gov)](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6181118/) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [FOC20150017 419..425 (psychiatryonline.org)](https://focus.psychiatryonline.org/doi/pdf/10.1176/appi.focus.20150017#:~:text=In%20this%20architecture%20of%20risk,such%20illnesses%20when%20they%20occur.) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)