

# Child Advocacy: Analyzing the Implementation of Social Determinants of Health Screening in an Urban Pediatric Inpatient Medical Center - Quality Improvement Project



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## INTRODUCTION

- Social determinants of health (SDoH) are the systems that shape the conditions of daily life influencing health outcomes.
- Gaps in or a lack of these resources can interfere with establishing a strong foundation for a child's health.
- Screening for health-related social needs is a recommended pediatric practice; however, there is controversy around screening for SDoHs if it is inaccurate, needs go unfulfilled, or the reliability as an indicator to inform care.

## OBJECTIVE

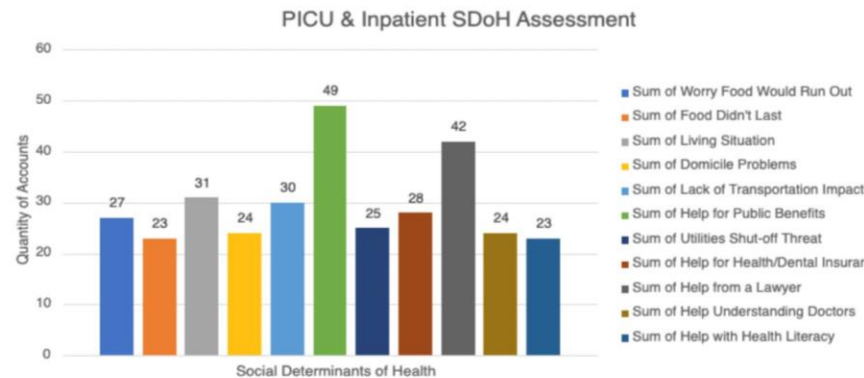
- Implements a SDoH assessment for all Pediatric inpatients
- Supports the argument that screening is not only valued by families but also reveals the prevalence of unmet social needs

## METHODOLOGY

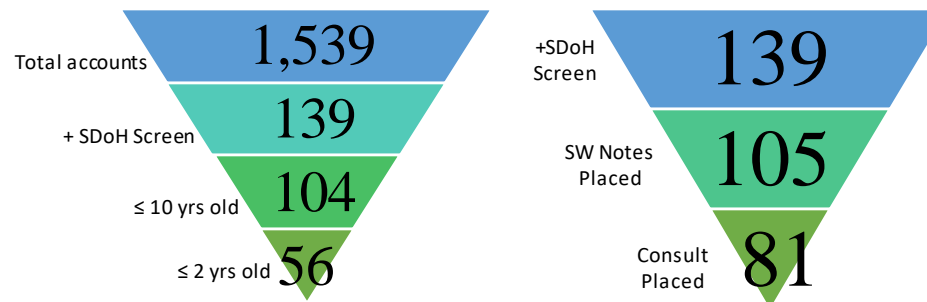
- Cohort Study with Pre-Assessment and Post-Assessment Implementation groups.
- Pre-Assessment survey was optional, provided baseline data. Post-Assessment survey implementation included all accounts over 1 year, required to be completed by nurses. A positive survey would then trigger a social work evaluation.
- Multivariate analysis conducted to inform future initiatives

## RESULTS

- 1,539 accounts were included in the dataset.
- Positive SDoH screen: 139 accounts (9.5%)\*
- Highest Need: Public Benefits (49) and Legal Assistance (42)
- 47 accounts combined indicated difficulty with medical understanding and/or health literacy.



## ANALYSIS



- 75% of the +SDoH screens were for children ≤ 10 yo, and 40% of the +SDoH screens were specifically ≤ 2yo.
- Only 58% (81) of the accounts with a +SDoH screen received a Social Work consult; however, the Social Work team still placed a note in the chart of 76% (105) of the +SDoH screens.
- 16% (23) with a +SDoH screen received no consult or note.

## CONCLUSION

- The Joint Commission and the AAP endorsed SDoH as a top priority and designated task forces to address child poverty.
- Health care providers are recognizing the importance of addressing non-medical challenges facing their patients.
- Our study not only noted an increase in reported SDoH needs by assessing all patients, but we also identified specific types of needs more prevalent in our community.

## FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Continue to assess the available resources and refine the process of connecting patients to the resources in the community, specifically tailored to our pediatric population.
- Refine the survey to ensure we are offering a comprehensive and effective assessment.
- Align initiatives with our outpatient team to provide a cohesive resource package to our population.
- Craft a process and model that can be replicated and implemented in other hospitals.