

Improving SDOH Screening: The HCH Pediatric Diabetes Center at NYU



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INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are conditions in the places where people live, work and socialize that affect their health, quality-of-life, and well-being. Adverse SDOH impact diabetes management and are related to the well-documented disparities in diabetes outcomes. Even with the most recent advances in diabetes care, such as advances in diabetes technology, children and their families reporting 1 or more adverse SDOH have suboptimal diabetes outcomes when compared to their peers.

SDOH screening in patients with diabetes and their families can help identify families in need of support and help address barriers that may contribute to poorer outcomes in diabetes management. SDOH screening is therefore an essential and potentially modifiable aspect of diabetes care.

For baseline data, charts of youth seen at the HCH Pediatric Diabetes Center (PDC) from January 2020 to January 2021 were reviewed to determine if annual SDOH screening was documented. It was noted that between 0-3% of patients seen during that time had SDOH screening documentation in their EMR. It was also noted that there was no process or single tool being used for SDOH screening.

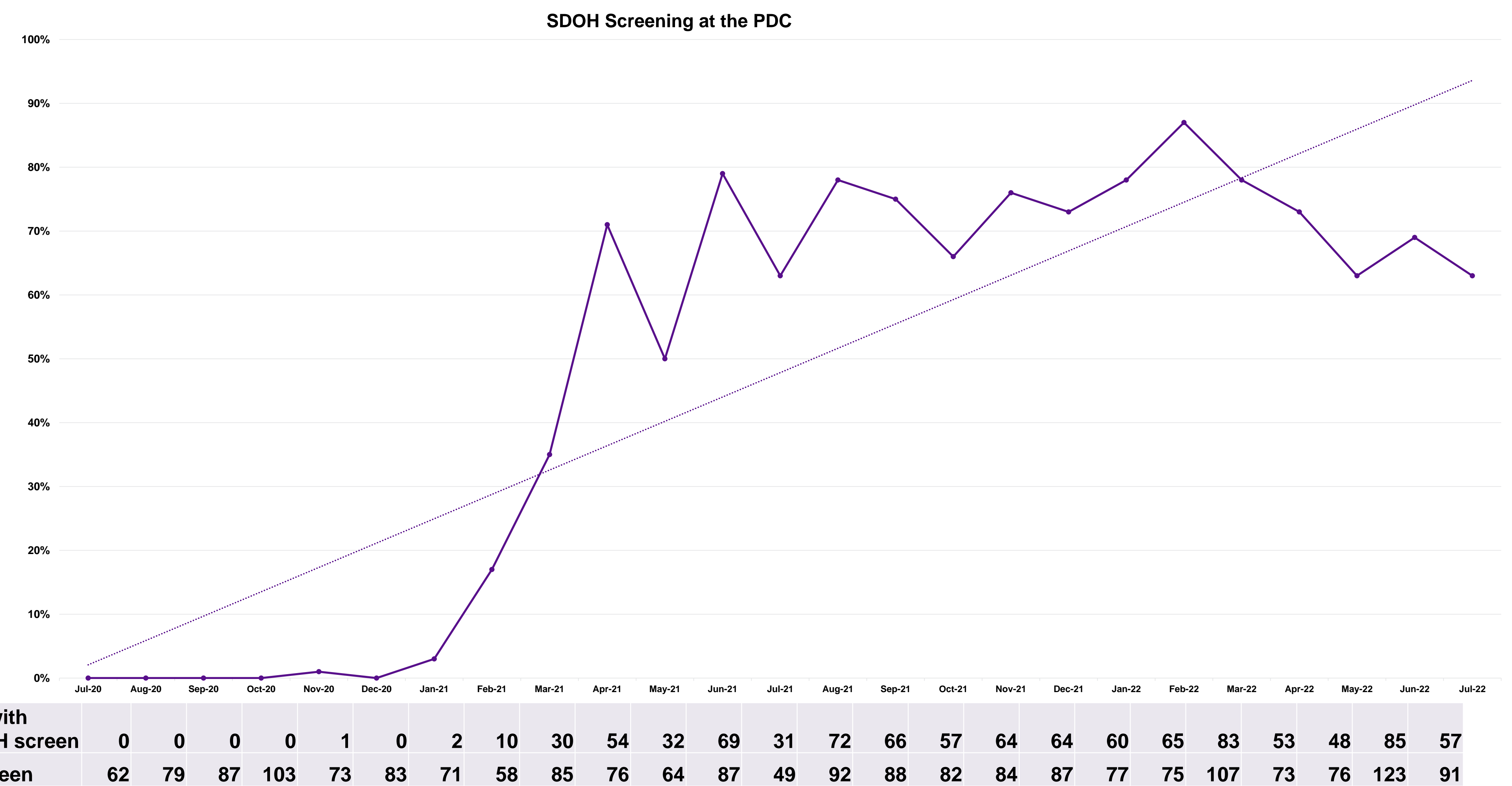
Therefore, this Quality Improvement (QI) project was initiated at the HCH Pediatric Diabetes Center (PDC) to increase annual documentation of SDOH screening to 50% after 12 months.

METHOD

To increase SDOH screening, we added SDOH questions, recommended by the T1D exchange, to the PDC intake form. The intake form was to be administered to all youth and their families at all PDC provider visits. Intake form distribution began in January 2021.

To help increase the completion rate of this form/SDOH screening Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles included providing the screening questions:

- On paper at check-in
- By Email/MyChart secure messaging in advance of the appointment
- Via automated MyChart questionnaire administration
- Via Welcome tablets at check-in (in addition to MyChart assignment ahead of the appointment)



RESULTS

Following a series of PDSA cycles, intake form completion rates/annual SDOH screening of youth with type 1 diabetes at the PDC increased from an average of 0-3% in the months prior to Jan 2021 to 67% in July 2022.

CONCLUSIONS

Using an intake form and multiple PDSA cycles to determine the most effective method of administration increased documentation of SDOH screening. Future PDSA cycles will include assessment of resources available, findings from the SDOH screening in relation to diabetes outcomes, continued work on increasing and streamlining completion of the intake form. To avoid survey fatigue, we are planning to reduce the number of questions on the diabetes intake form and the number of times we ask SDOH questions each year. We also plan to have an RN review the form with the family at the visit.

REFERENCES

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