

Multi-Center Quality Improvement Project: Increasing Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Screening Across Six Diabetes Centers in the United States

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Background: Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are strongly associated with outcomes for patients with diabetes. Incorporating widespread clinic SDOH screening programs is challenging. We aim to demonstrate the use of Quality Improvement (QI) interventions in expanding SDOH screening practices across 5 pediatric and 1 adult diabetes centers in the T1D Exchange Improvement Collaborative (T1DX-QI).

Method: The centers applied QI principles to design iterative plan-do-study-act (PDSA) cycles to develop and expand interventions to improve screening rates. The interventions include staff training, developing a social risk index, use of EHR patient-facing portal, partnership with community organizations, referral to clinic, and community resources. The centers shared monthly aggregate data with the coordinating center. Statistical Process Control charts were created and analyzed for significant shifts.

Result: All centers were successful at implementing SDOH screening, improvement ranged from 41% to 68%. Overall screening increased from baseline by 56% in 24 months (Figure 1).

Conclusion: QI principles are feasible in integrating SDOH screening rates among diabetes centers.

Figure 1

Participating centers SDOH Screening

