

# Screening Practices of Healthcare Providers for Patients' Social Determinants of Health

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## 01. Background

- Inequities in social determinants of health (SDoH) contribute to poor health outcomes.
- SDoH impact access to care, treatment adherence, and overall health.
- Healthcare systems are increasingly recognizing the importance of screening for SDoH to reduce health disparities.
- However, barriers exist in effectively screening and addressing SDoH in clinical practice.

## 03. Methods

- **Recruitment:** Social media and outreach to healthcare organizations in Northern Ontario.
- **Inclusion:** Regulated healthcare providers in Northern Ontario.
- **Survey:** 27 Likert-style questions on a survey conducted through Qualtrics platform.
- **Timeline:** April 18<sup>th</sup> - June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- **Data Collection On:** Demographics, screening practices, barriers, and referrals.



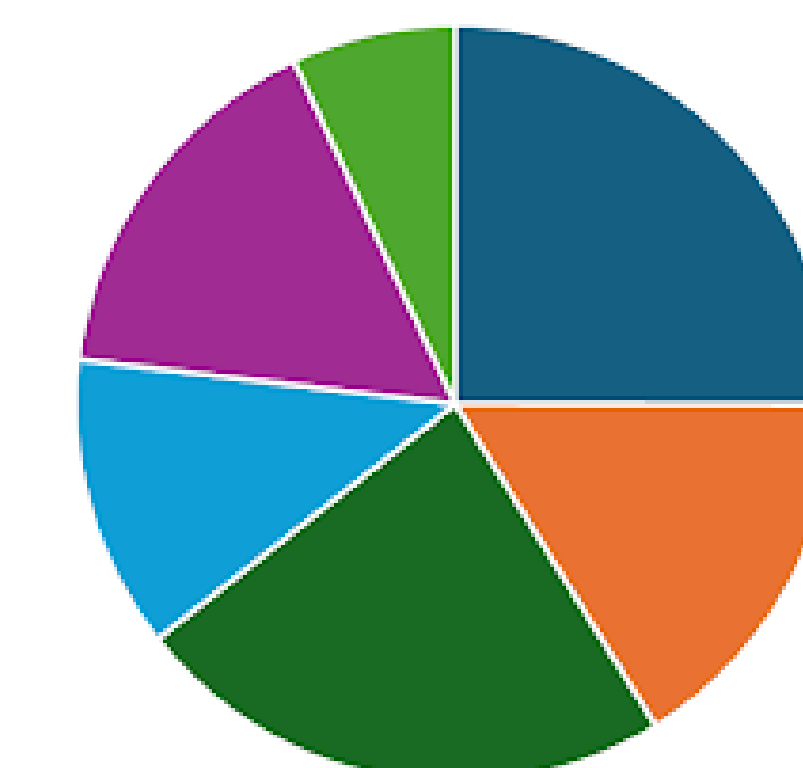
## 05. Discussion

- Standardized SDoH screening tools integrated into electronic health records (EHRs) could improve documentation and referrals.
- Provider training on SDoH screening and referral processes is essential to enhance patient support.

## 06. Limitations

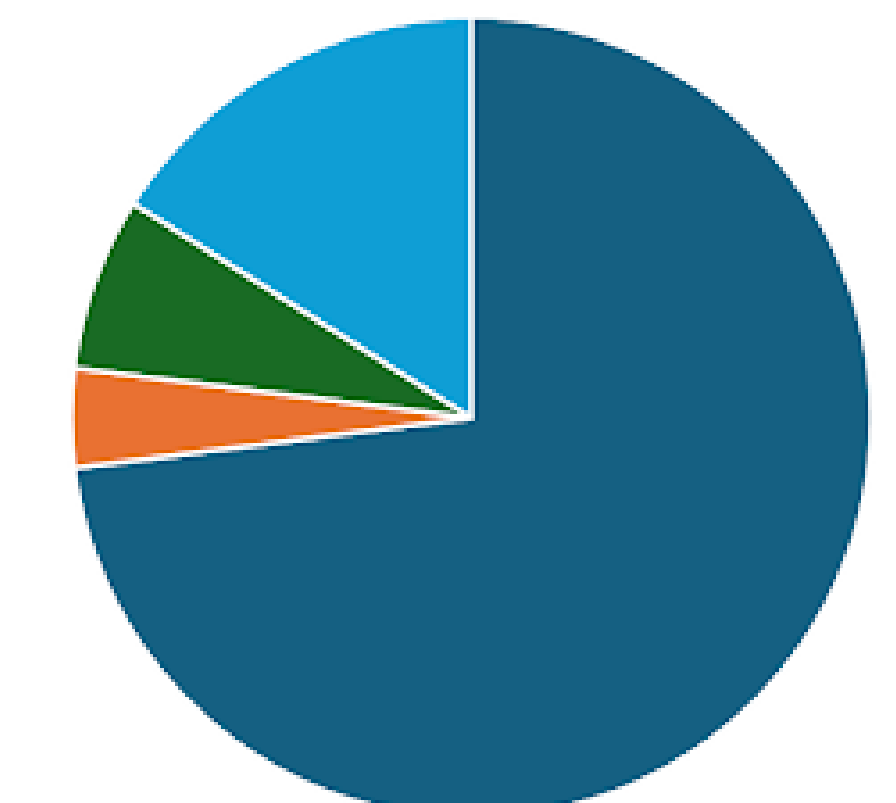
- Study focused only on Northern Ontario healthcare providers
- Short assessment period (April-June 2024).
- Small sample size (56 participants, mostly nurses).

Healthcare Sectors



■ Acute Care ■ Chronic Care ■ Community Care  
■ Primary Care ■ Multiple ■ Other

Type of Healthcare Provider



■ Nurses ■ Nurse Practitioner ■ Midwife ■ Other

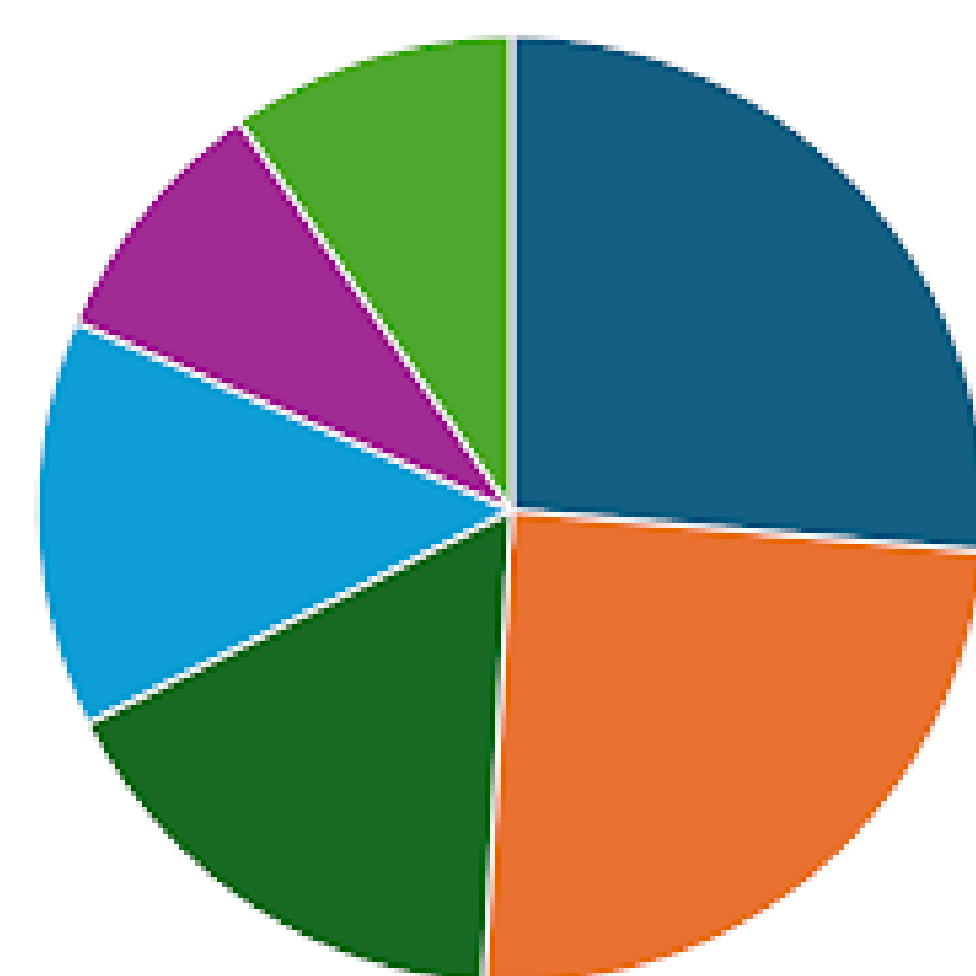
## 02. Objectives

- Identify screening practices for SDoH among healthcare providers in Northern Ontario.
- Determine barriers, facilitators, and gaps in current screening practices.
- Assess interventions and referrals offered to patients to mitigate SDoH challenges.

## 04. Results

### Barriers to Screening:

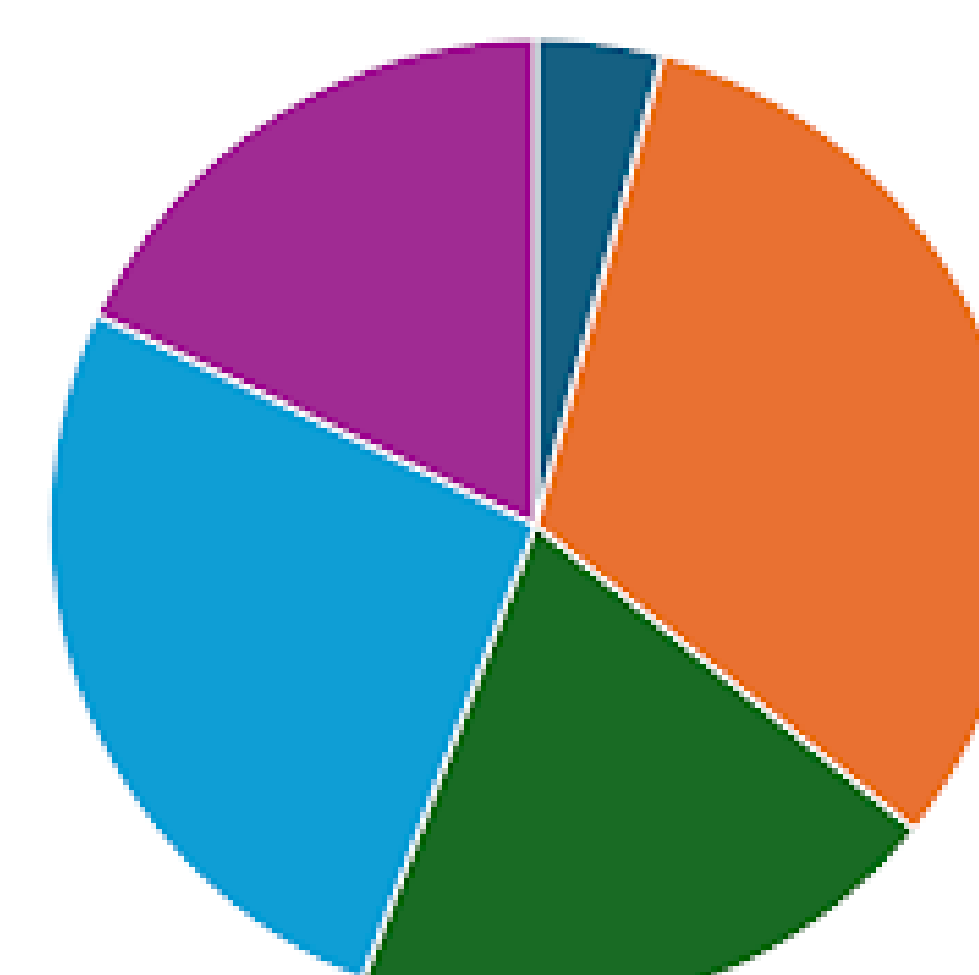
- Lack of standardized screening tools
- Insufficient training on conducting screenings and making referrals.
- Time constraints and provider moral distress due to resource limitation



■ Time ■ Relevance ■ Unsure What To Ask ■ Unsure When to Ask ■ Uncomfortable ■ Other

### Referrals:

- 30% of providers always refer patients.
- Common referrals include social work, mental health, spiritual care, home and community care.



■ Never ■ Sometimes ■ Half the Time ■ Most of the Time ■ Always

## 07. Conclusion

- Addressing SDoH in healthcare is crucial for reducing disparities and improving patient outcomes.
- Providers require standardized tools, assessment protocols, and training to conduct effective screening and referrals

## 08. Next Steps

- Investigate the impact of standardized SDoH screening tools on patient outcomes and provider experiences.
- Evaluate system-level interventions to improve referrals and resources availability.

## 09. References

