

# STRONG CHILDREN'S RESEARCH CENTER

## Summer Research Scholar

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### ABSTRACT

**Title:** Health Equity Quality Improvement (HE-QI): Screening for Food Insecurity in an Urban Ophthalmology Clinic

**Background:** Various Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) are implicated in ophthalmic diseases, with food insecurity being of particular importance given the link between food and conditions such as diabetic and hypertensive retinopathy. While prior quality improvement (QI) initiatives addressing food insecurity screening exist, they are limited in the ophthalmic clinical setting.

**Objective:** We implemented a QI project to improve screening for food insecurity in an urban ophthalmology outpatient clinic seeing adult and pediatric patients, with a goal of 80% of patients being screened. Project initiatives included improving the patient visit flow to incorporate screening and training clinic staff and providers on this new process as well as introducing an on-site food pantry. Various QI tools, such as a current state process map, Key Driver Diagram, and infographics for patient education were utilized throughout the project's course.

**Results:** Weekly data indicates that the team is on track to reach the goal of 80% after having consistently been screening in the 70% range since the project has started. Since this project is ongoing, improvements and refinements will continue to be made until project end.

**Conclusion:** We hope this project can serve as a model for improving SDoH screening in ophthalmologic settings.