

Abstract

Background: Identifying social determinants of health (SDOH) is a crucial step in addressing health disparities, and consistency in screening is needed to ensure that appropriate resources are provided. SDOH screening tools provide a systematic method of screening for needs, but must be acceptable to the site and staff using the tool.

Purpose: The purpose of this project was to determine the feasibility of incorporating a SDOH screening tool into community health screenings.

Methods: This project examined the feasibility of incorporating a SDOH screening tool into community health screenings at a nurse-managed community center. Community health nurses used the screening tool over an 8-week period and rated the feasibility and likelihood of continued use of the tool on a 5-point Likert scale. The nurses were also tested on their knowledge of SDOH before and after the intervention through a ten-question multiple choice test based on SDOH information presented on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and HealthPeople2020 websites. After the intervention was completed, results of the screening tool were assessed via chart review to identify areas with the greatest needs.

Results: The results showed that nurses found the tool to be very feasible and they were very likely to continue using the tool. This project showed that utilizing a SDOH screening tool is a feasible option to standardize screening in community health assessments.

Conclusion: The community health nurses at the project site gave the tool the highest possible ratings; they found the tool to be very useful and were very likely to continue using the tool. Average SDOH knowledge scores did not increase after using the tool. The SDOH needs most commonly identified with the tool were intimate partner violence, housing security, education, and transportation.