

Bridging Medical and Social Care: University Health and Family Service

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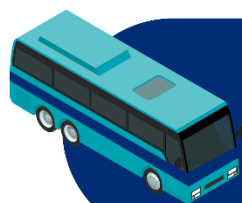
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WHO WE ARE...

COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK



6 School-based Health Centers



3 Mobile Units

- Mammograms
- Primary care
- Blood donations



3 Ambulatory Surgery Centers



2 Hospitals:

- University Hospital
- Women's & Children's Hospital



University Health

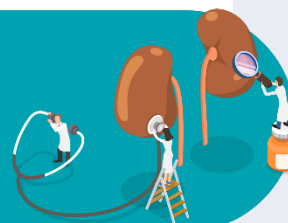
More than
30 Outpatient Care Centers



3 ExpressMed Walk-in Clinics



5 Dialysis Centers



12,000+
Employees



2,200+
Physicians

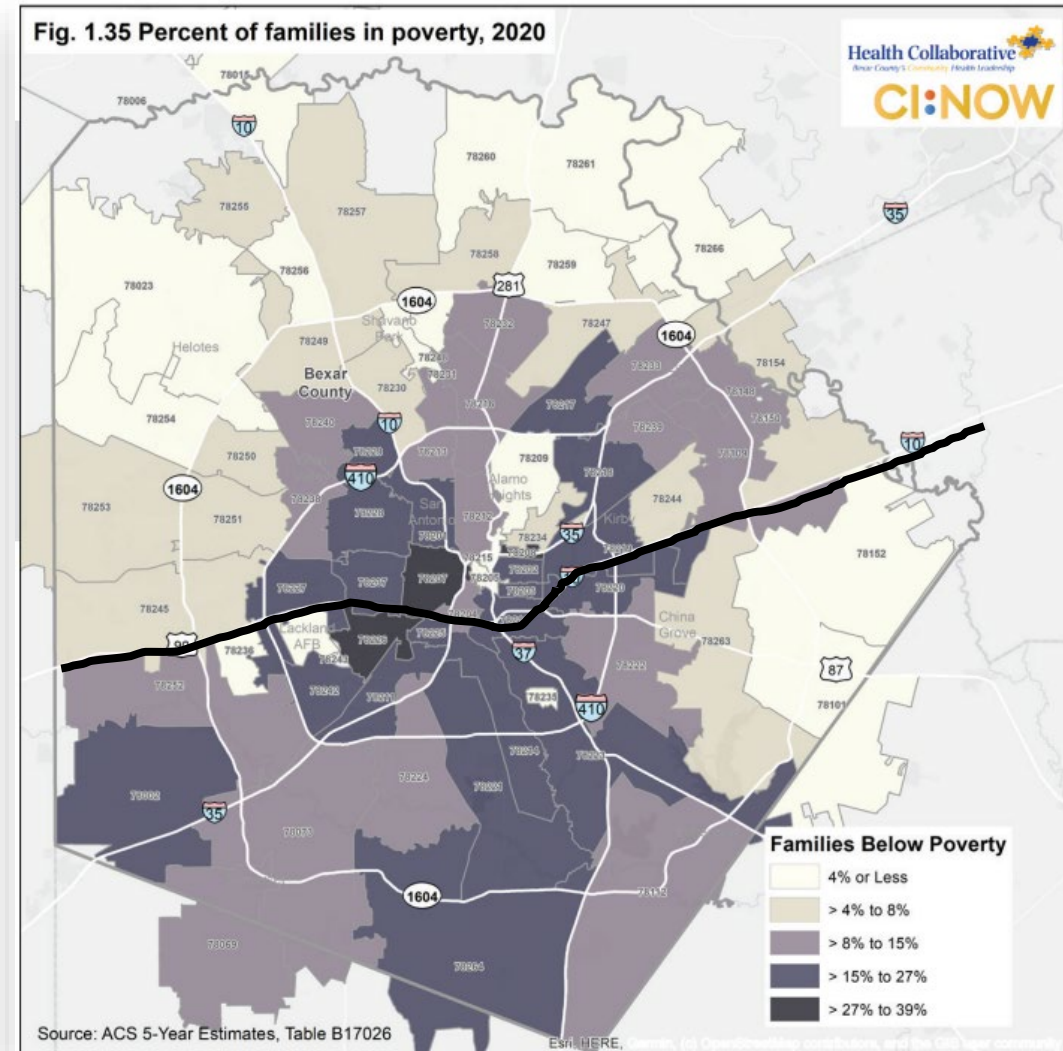
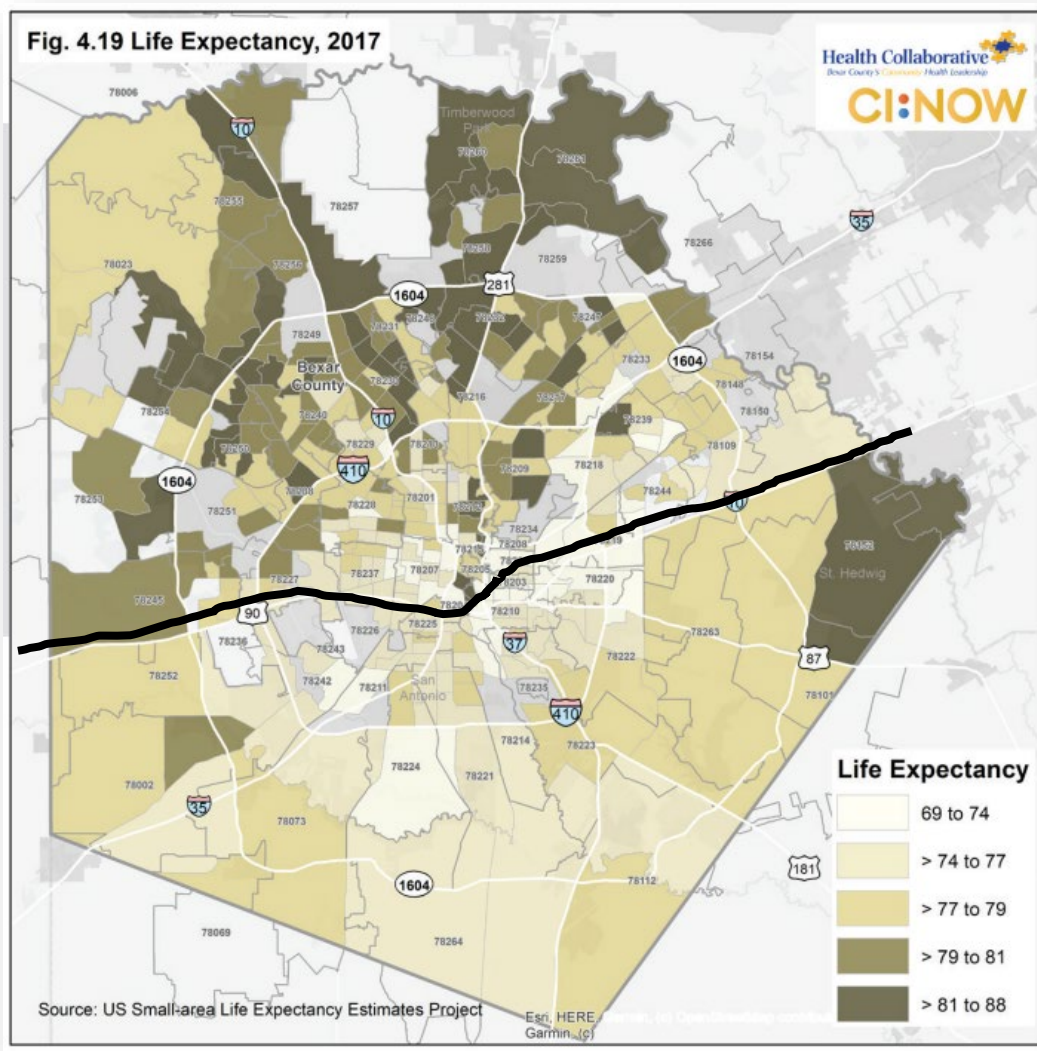
University Medicine Associates
Primary and specialty care group practice



Community First
Nonprofit managed care organization

CareLink
Coverage program for uninsured residents

There are significant health and social needs in our communities



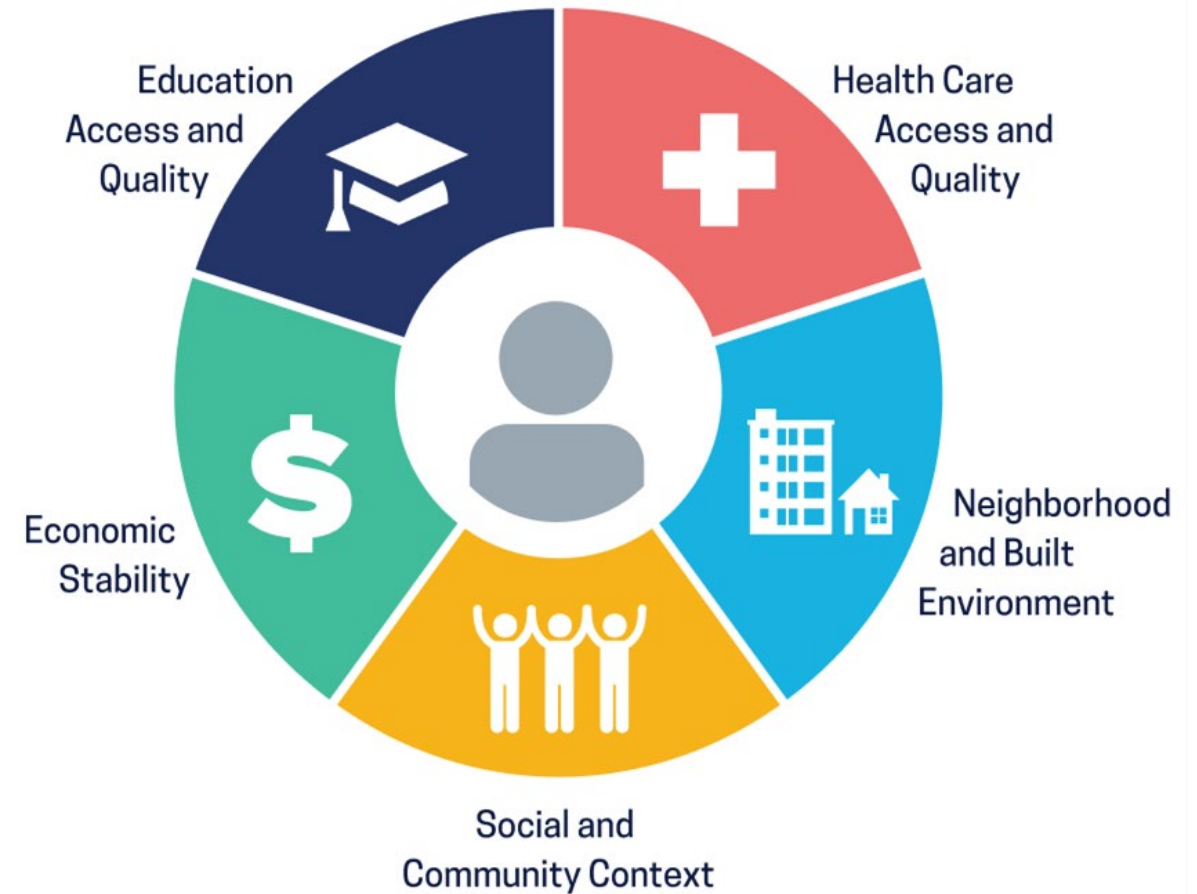
Institute for Public Health

- Established March 2022
- **Mission:** Promote health, prevent disease and prolong life in our community.
- **Identify and address priority needs** through programs, policy and community engagement
- **“Connects the dots”** between programs and services provided by University Health and community partners to reduce health disparities.



We are integrating medical and social care to improve health.

- Standardize screening and referral processes
- Educating staff and patients on services available
- Engaging with partners to address root causes of poor health in the community



Graphic from: [Healthy People 2030](#)

Family Service Mission

Empowering individuals and families to **transform** their lives and **strengthen** our communities.

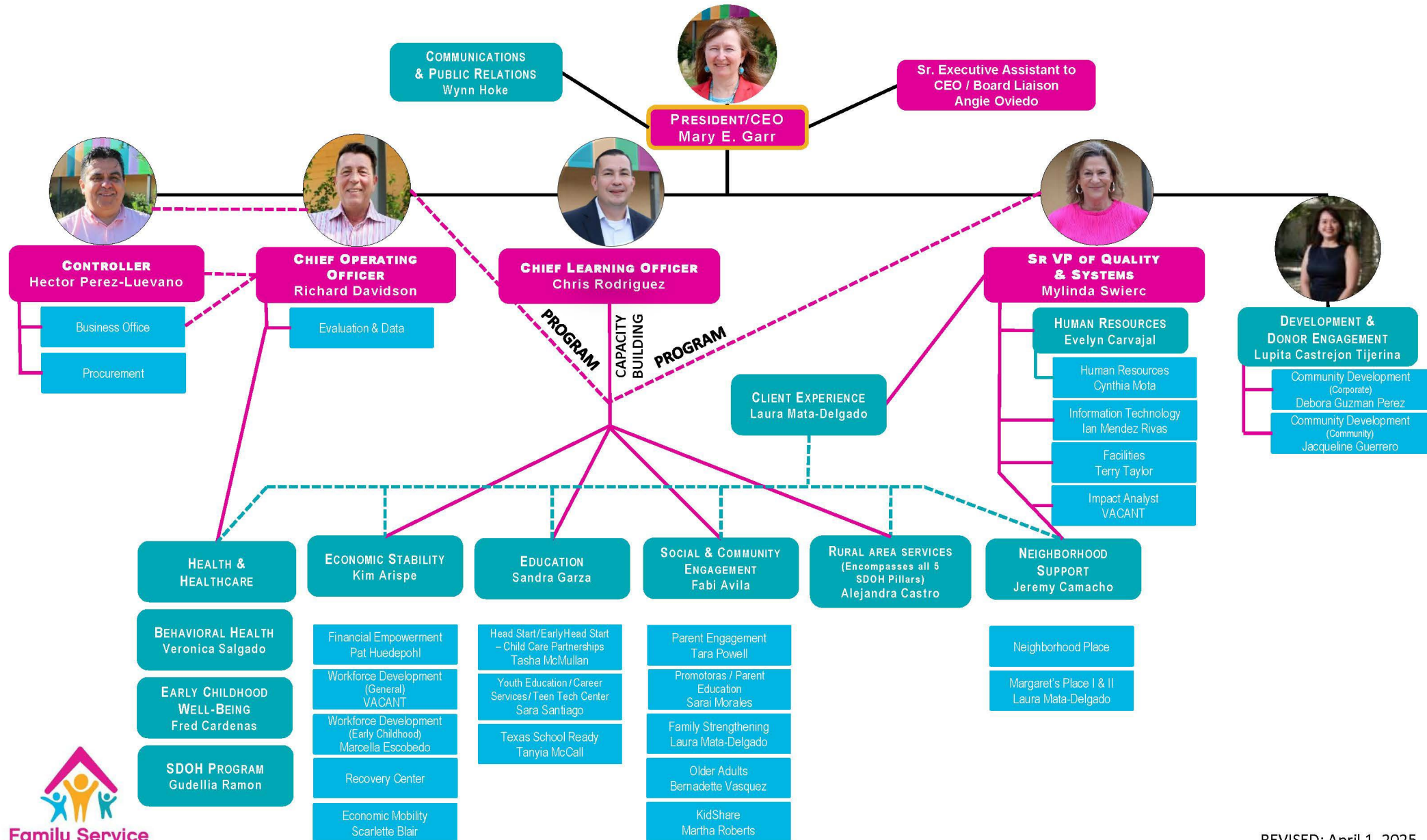
We are working to address the **social determinants of health** through a **trauma informed care** lens.

Oldest human service nonprofit in San Antonio

- Founded in 1903
- Celebrating 122 years in San Antonio and surrounding Counties
- 27 years in Rural Communities
- Served almost 50,000 clients in 2024
- Supported more than 90,000 lives in 2024

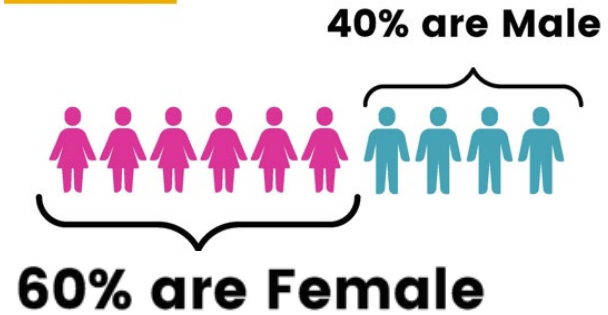
Family Service Organizational Chart

Based on the Social Determinants of Health



2024 DEMOGRAPHICS

GENDER



ANNUAL INCOME

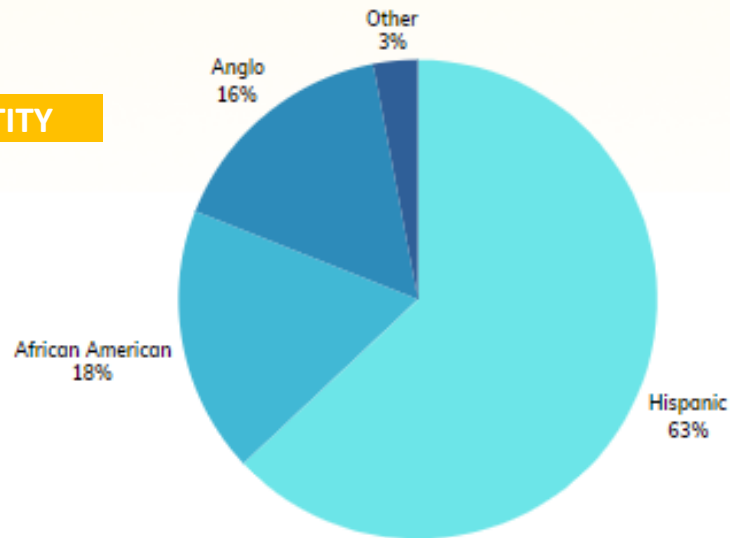
Of the clients we serve:

34%
Make less than \$5,000

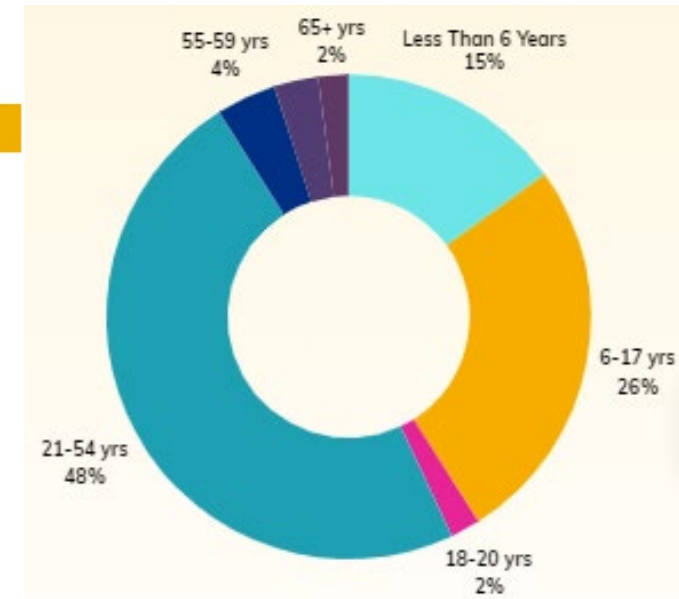
66%
Make less than \$10,000

90%
Make less than \$25,000

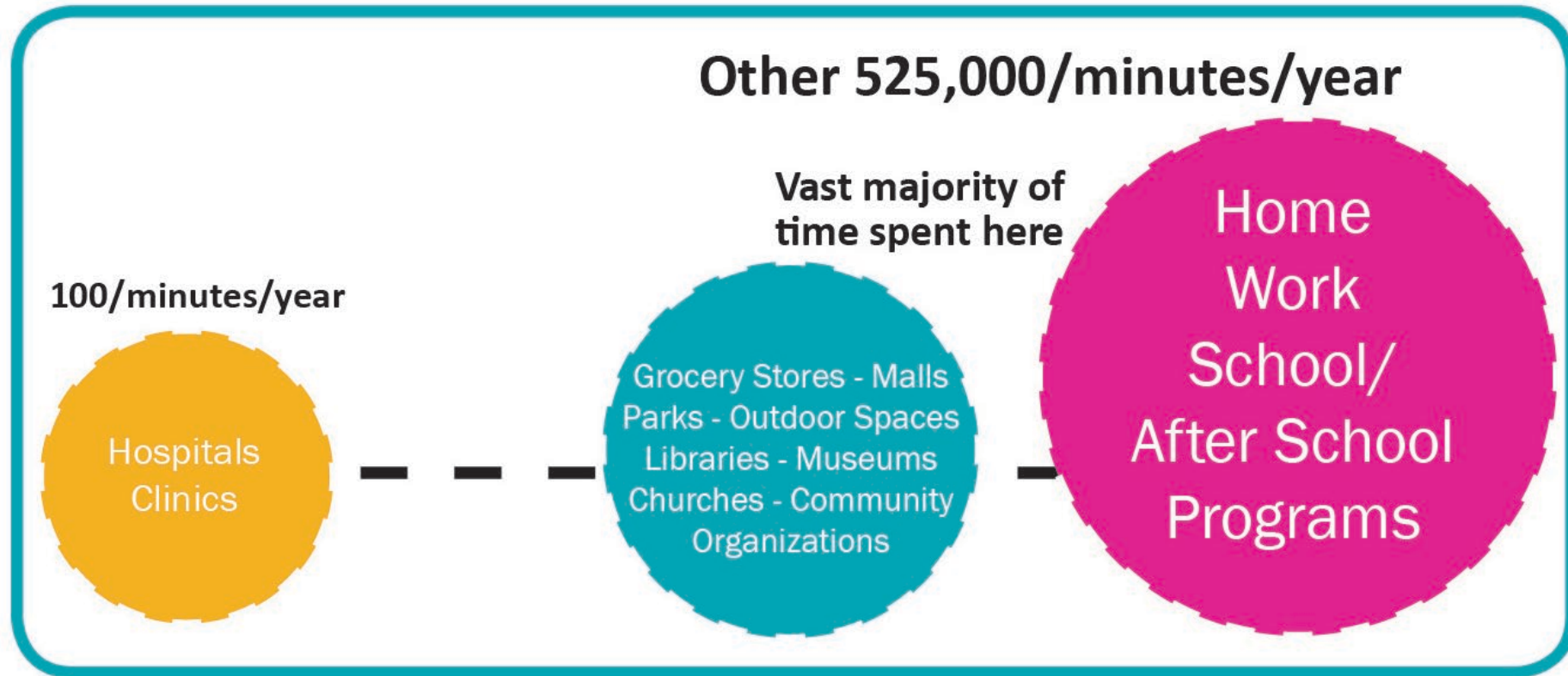
IDENTITY



AGE



Influencers of Health



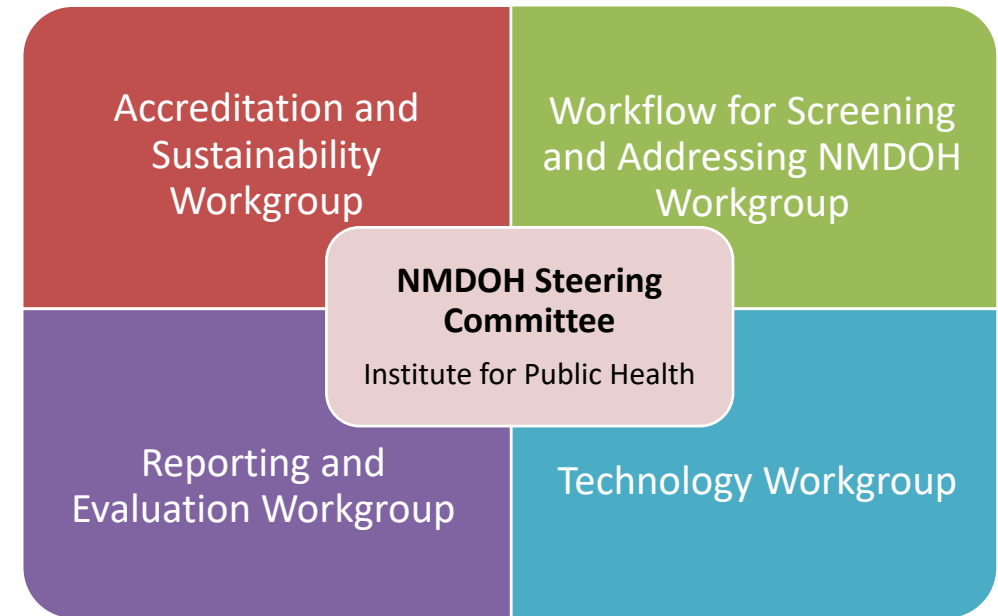
NMDOH Partnership with University Health

History:

- NMDOH Conversations and Relationship Building
- Shared Grants
- UH NMDOH Assessment Tool
- UH and Family Service Partnership and Investment in addressing NMDOH

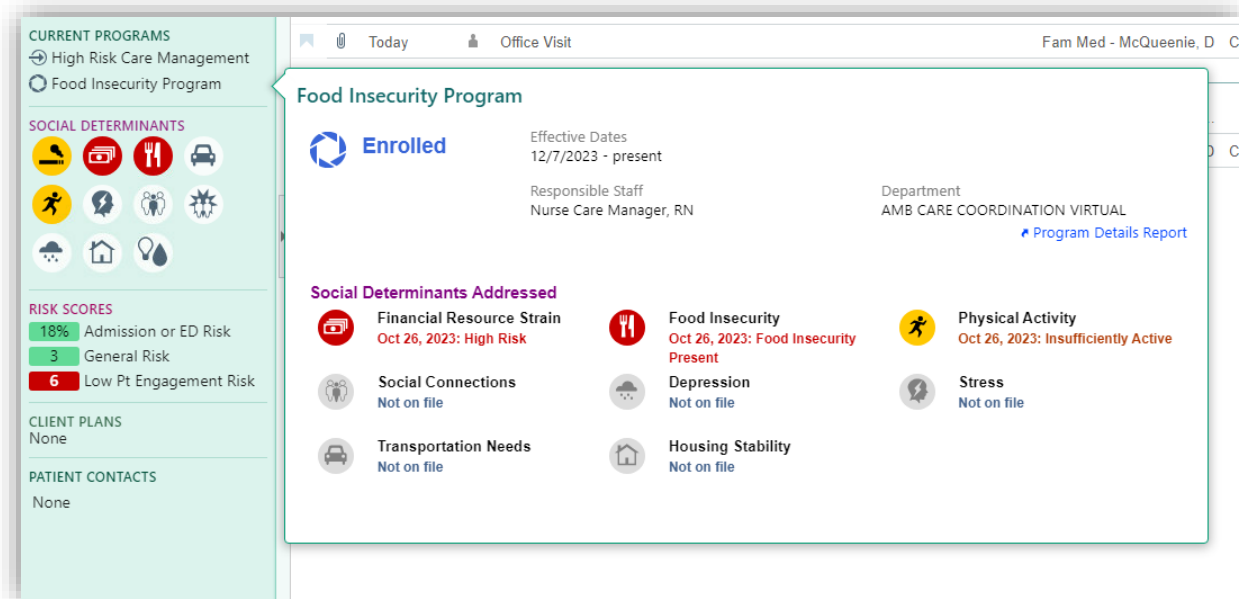
Unique Cross-Sector Relationship

- Launched NMDOH Task Force in April 2023 to guide integration of medical and social care
- Program launched October 2023
- Fully integrated into electronic health record (EHR) system
- Family Service is not co-located within University Health facilities
- Staff refer patients to Family Service within Epic and communicate directly with staff



Leveraging Features within an EHR

- Compass Rose Module
 - Monitor, manage, and maintain information related to NMDOH
 - Assess patient non-medical drivers of health
 - Document efforts in a quantifiable manner
 - Accessible information for care team
- Developed four pathways to guide efforts to address NMDOH
 - Food
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Financial



Pathways to Address NMDOH

- Each pathway consists of time bound
 - Targets – high-level milestones meant to be completed for a program
 - Checklist Tasks – Track day-to-day activities.
 - Ability to track Community Resources patients were referred to.

Targets

Food Insecurity Program

Add targets +

Show: ☒ Completed

Targets	Due	Outcome
Upcoming		
Connect Patient with Community Resources	4/12/2025 (3 days)	✓ Complete ✕
Options for Food Insecurity Independence	4/18/2025 (9 days)	✓ Complete ✕
Confirm food insecurity assistance	4/18/2025 (9 days)	✓ Complete ✕

Checklist This Visit Notes

Episode Tasks

Food Pathways

Add tasks + Add

1 2

Social Work

<input type="checkbox"/>	SEP 21 2023	Schedule follow-up appointment with social worker Caleb-Cc Angel
<input type="checkbox"/>	SEP 21 2023	Provide Community Resources to Patient Caleb-Cc Angel
<input type="checkbox"/>	SEP 21 2023	Print any applicable applications Caleb-Cc Angel
<input type="checkbox"/>	SEP 22 2023	SDOH Assessment Is Complete Caleb-Cc Angel

Community Resource Usage

Search for community resources + Add

Show: ☐ Historic

Name	Domains	Usage	Status	Last Updated
<input type="checkbox"/> EXT Catholic Charities Community Resource Program		In Use Won't Be Used Completed		4/9/2025 by Caleb-Cc Aboleth, LCSW
Services: Child Welfare Services				
<input type="checkbox"/> EXT San Antonio Food Bank Community Resource Program		In Use Won't Be Used Completed		4/9/2025 by Caleb-Cc Aboleth, LCSW
Services: Financial Assistance for Food, Financial Education, Food Boxes, Food Pantry, Nutrition Education				

☒ Mark as Reviewed Never reviewed

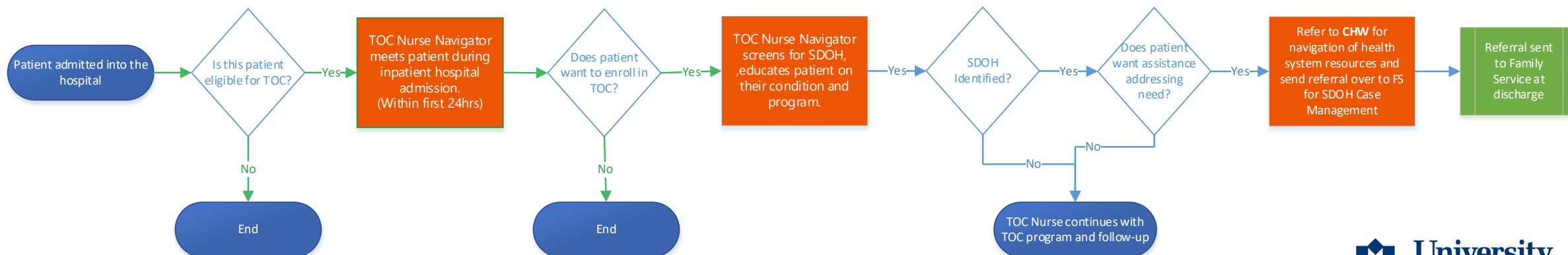
Clear Checkboxes New Communication

Close

Previous Next

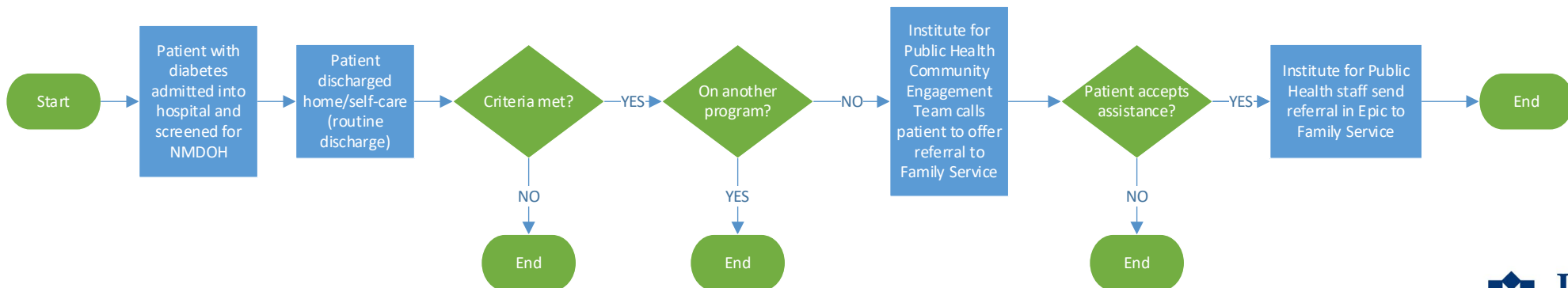
Program Cohorts – Transitions of Care

- Transitions of Care (TOC) is an internal navigation program focused on identification, education and post-acute follow-up.
- Target Population
 - Hospital patients who are admitted for an exacerbation of Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) or new onset of heart failure and qualify for the Transitions of Care Program.
 - Hospital patients who have a LACE+ Readmission score between 50-70 and qualify for the Transitions of Care Program.
- Cohorts Launched October 2023 and March 2024



Program Cohorts - Diabetes

- Target Population – Hospital patients with Diabetes who live in a zip code with a high social vulnerability index ($\geq 75\%$) and had a routine discharge
- Social Vulnerability - Systemic socioeconomic inequities like poverty, poor housing conditions, and lack of access to quality health care lead to worse health outcomes
- Exclusion Criteria
 - Listed on any of the following registries: Transplant, Congestive Heart Failure, and Cancer
 - Enrolled in any Transition of Care case management program
 - Not screened for NMDOH within last year



Screening & Referral: Process Overview and Program Expectations

- Patients screened for NMDOH within 24-48hrs of hospital admission
- Patients receive warm handoff to Family Service staff from University Health staff
- Family Service expected to
 - Make initial outreach to patient within 72 hours of receiving referral
 - Schedule an intake appointment within 10 days of receiving referral
 - Connect patients to resources and follow-up to ensure resources were received and needs are met.
 - Document all patient encounters within Epic.

Family Service Assessment Tools and Process

In addition to the UH screening and referrals:

- **Getting To Know You Tool**
 - The CMS Accountable Health Communities Health-Related Social Needs Screening Tool
 - ACES Screening Tool
 - Other demographics
- **Checking on You Tool**
- **Algorithm** to assess entire family, not just the patient

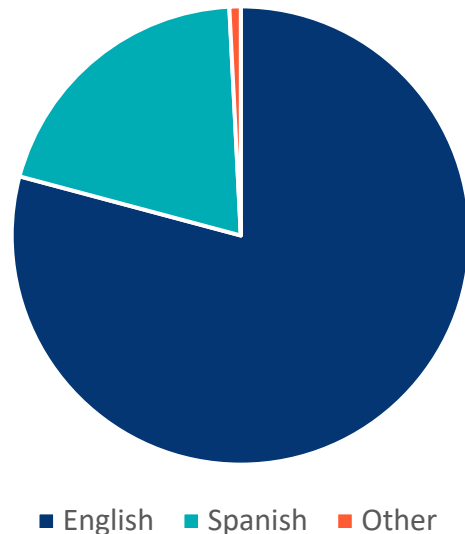
Once referral is received in the EHR (Epic):

- Contact patient
- Assess the patient and family to include home environment
- Provide supports/services, link to internal and/or external services
- Document in Epic (referring provider can see what is happening with their patient)

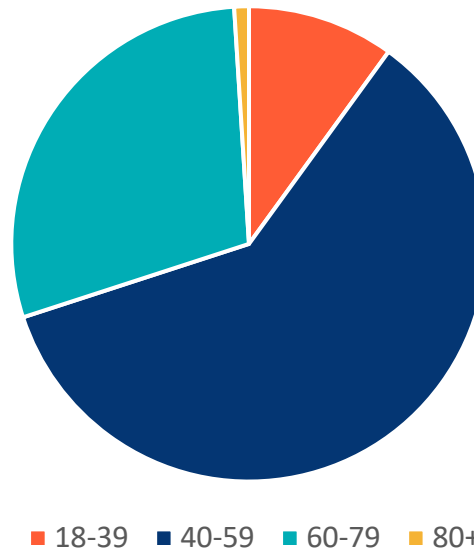
Program Outcomes

- October 2023 – December 2024
 - Individuals Referred – 401
 - Received Family Serve case management - 220
 - Pathways Created – 435

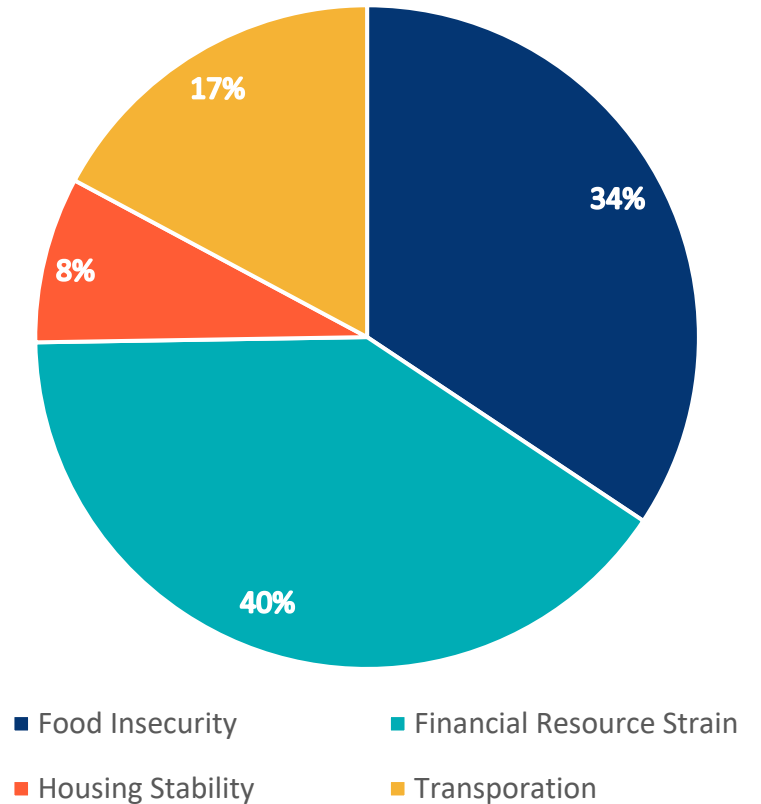
Preferred Language of Patients Referred to Family Service



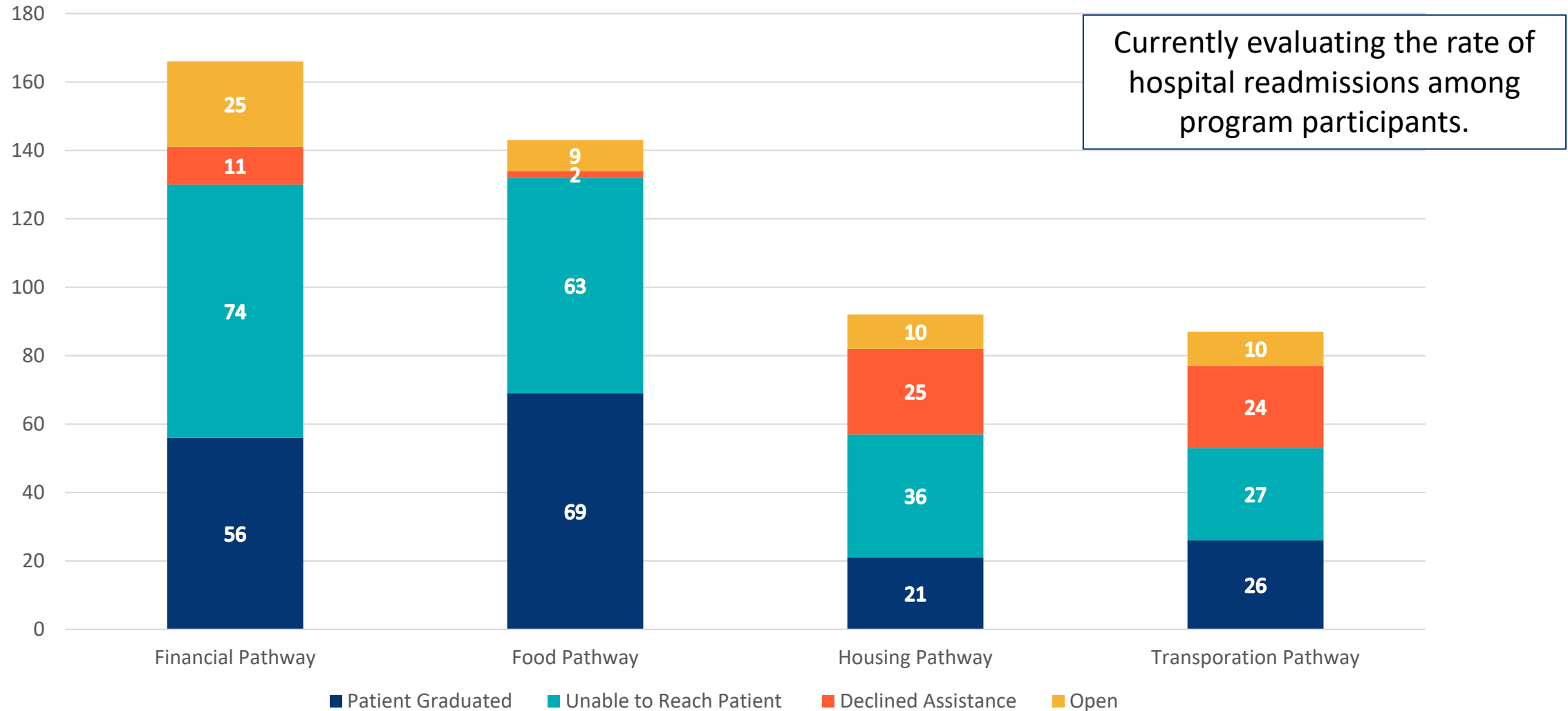
Patients Referred to Family Service by Age



NMDOH Identified for Patients Referred to Family Service



NMDOH Needs Addressed



Average number of days to close pathways - 144

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

- Lengthy process to grant individuals access to Epic
- Continuous oversight and training necessary to maintain system proficiency
- High rate of attrition among patients referred to the program
- Staff turnover
- New program for both partners

Lessons Learned

- An NMDOH program like this takes time to build
- Key to have all stakeholders in the room during development
- Must be an investment and partnership not solely transactional

Why partner with Community Based/Social Services Organizations?

- Trusted, grassroots organizations with deep community ties
- Experts in addressing NMDOH
- Advocate for vulnerable populations and navigate complex systems
- Operate efficiently to maximize limited funding
- Enhance care coordination, referrals, and outcome tracking
- Help reduce delays in care and prevent avoidable, high-cost utilization
- Offer insights into correlations between NMDOH and high-cost claims

Future and Spread

- Leveraging EpicLink as a referral tool for community partners
- Optimizing the use of space at University Health Vida
- Creating Pathways to Partnership
 - Referral partner
 - Host events in our community spaces
 - Co-locate in University Health Vida



Questions