

Re-engaging the Community after the COVID-19 Pandemic at an Interprofessional Student-Run Clinic

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BACKGROUND

PRE-COVID

- The **UC Health Professions Education Collaborative (HPEC)** was a group of faculty from the University of Cincinnati Academic Health Center Colleges.
- HPEC worked collaboratively since 2008 to create opportunities for students to gain interprofessional didactic, experiential and extra-curricular experiences.
- In achieving the goal to create opportunities for our learners to work together in a manner that relates to improving health for vulnerable populations as well as in interprofessional teams, a student run self-management clinic (**Open School-UCOS**) was developed in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul in the West End of Cincinnati.

Mission:

- Improve outcomes for Cincinnati's uninsured and underserved by providing quality, comprehensive, locally relevant, health and social services.

Goals:

- Open School students empower clients to take ownership of their health and wellness through a self-management support system.

Clinic:

- Year-round, Saturday morning clinic (8:30 to noon) offered in partnership with St Vincent de Paul (local social service agency)

Clinic Activities:

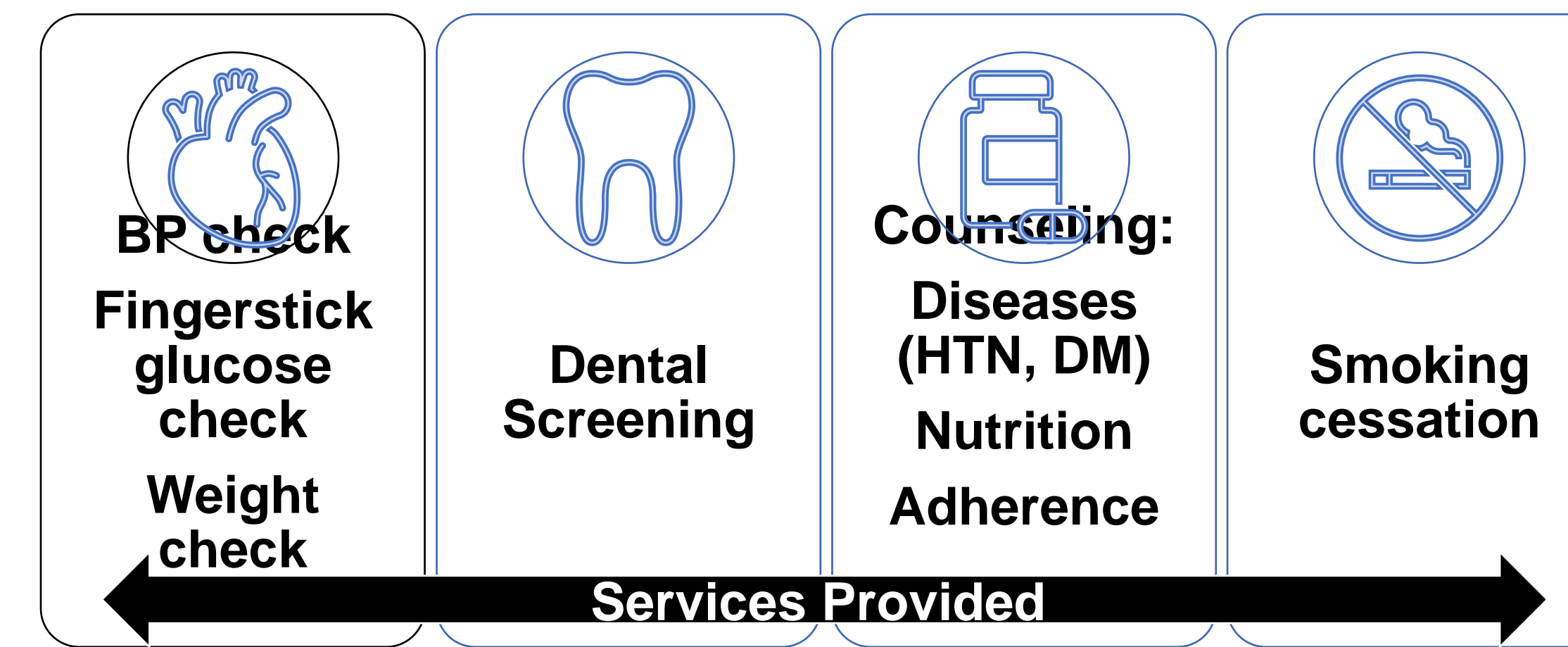
- Students work in interprofessional pairs to interview clients using the following skills:
 - Interprofessional Teamwork
 - Community Engagement
 - Individualized Patient Outcomes
 - Nutritional Counseling
 - Hypertension and Diabetes Screening
 - Influenza Vaccination (Flu Shots)
 - Collaboration with Local Clinics
 - Integration with St Vincent de Paul's Charitable Pharmacy and UC HIV Early Intervention Program

- Since its inception, there have been over 20 student leaders/year, 20 dedicated faculty members, >350 trained students, >500 clients served in clinic before the pandemic.
- **The pandemic halted operations for 18 months, significantly affecting community engagement.**

BACKGROUND

POST-COVID

- Open School (UCOS) had to be re-launched from ground zero and to re-engage the community.
- Open School Clinic is run by an interprofessional executive board, made up of 13 students and 13 faculty members.
- The board is led by 2 student co-chairs.
- Professions represented: Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Physical Therapy, Nutrition and Social Work.
- Each week, 1-2 student leaders and 1 faculty member run the clinic with the help of 2-8 volunteers from any of the listed schools.



Efforts to re-engage the community included:

- Flyers posted throughout SVdP
- Directly approaching neighbors to ask if they need services while they wait
- Engaging interpreter services via iPad
- Reinstating the annual health fair with expanded services

OBJECTIVE

- To present initial UCOS clinic data.

METHODS

Data was collected from March 2023-Feb 2024 in narrative form via a clinic update document. The clinic update tracked:

- Which professions lead and volunteered
- Number of neighbors seen
- Type of problems addressed with neighbors
- Logistical challenges and improvements made
- Survey of interprofessional collaboration with Students Perceptions of Interprofessional Clinical Education Revised (SPICE-R2)

RESULTS

- 169 students from 6 professions (medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, nutrition, and dental hygiene) participated.
- Of 232 total volunteers, medicine, dental hygiene, and pharmacy contributed the most with 82 (35.3%), 50 (21.6%), and 44 (19.0%) volunteers, respectively. On average, 2.6 (SD 1.1) professions were present each Saturday with an average of 3.4 volunteers (SD 1.8).
- In total, 136 neighbors were seen, an average of 2 neighbors per clinic (SD 1.2, Range 8-0).
- Attendance improved during spring and summer months, while it dropped during winter and early spring, though there were outliers in all seasons. Seven neighbors returned to the clinic, with 2 returning more than once.
- 18 students completed the SPICE-R2 survey (15% response rate)

Figure 1. Number of Neighbors Seen

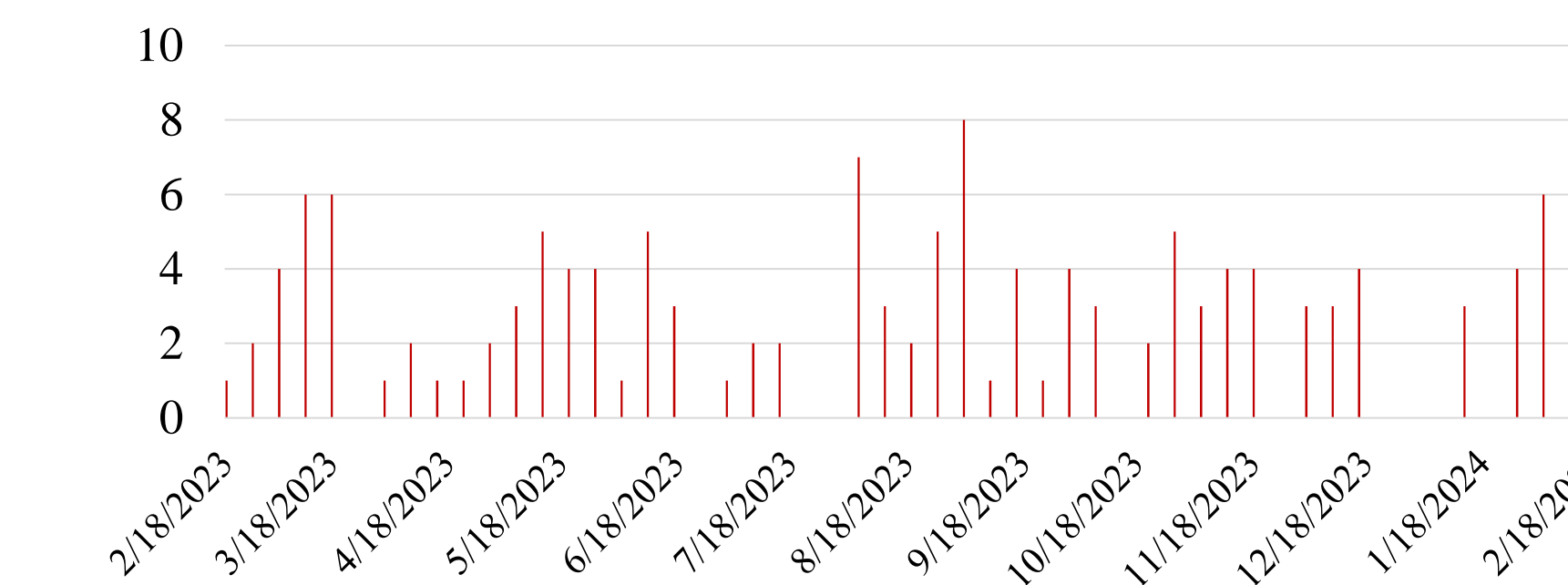


Figure 2. Services Provided

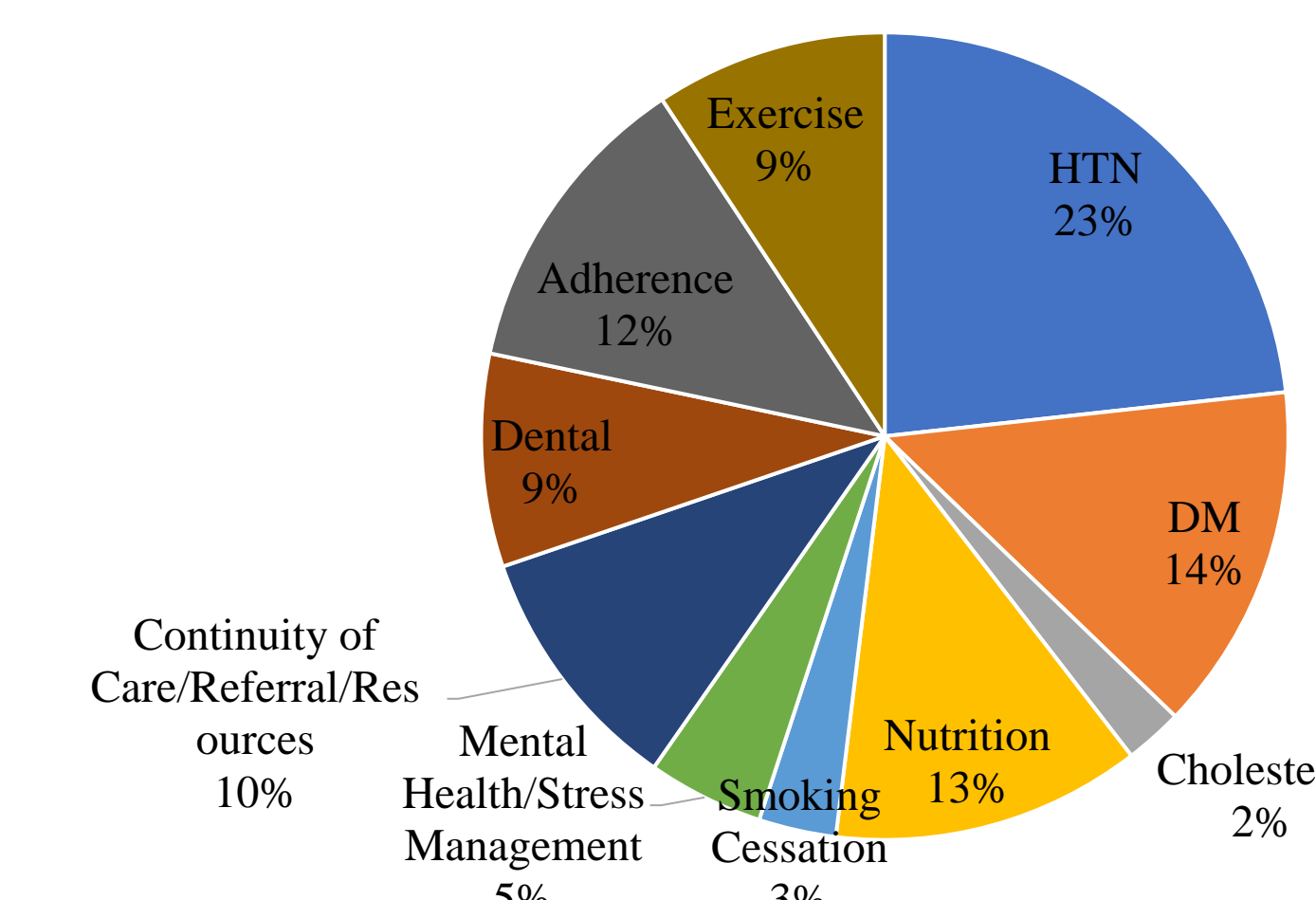


Table 1. SPICE-R2

| | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|--|---------|----------|----------------|
| 1. Working with students from different disciplines enhances my education | 0 | 7 (39%) | 11 (61%) |
| 2. My role within an IPE team is clearly defined | 2 (11%) | 8 (44%) | 8 (44%) |
| 3. Patient/client satisfaction is improved when care is delivered by an IPE team | 2 (11%) | 4 (22%) | 12 (67%) |
| 4. Participating in educational experiences with students from different disciplines enhances my ability to work on an IPE team* | 0 | 8 (44%) | 10 (56%) |
| 5. I have an understanding of the courses taken by, and training requirements of, other health professionals | 4 (22%) | 8 (44%) | 3 (17%) |
| 6. Healthcare costs are reduced when patients/clients are treated by an IPE team** | 3 (17%) | 8 (44%) | 5 (28%) |
| 7. Health professional students from different disciplines should be educated to establish collaborative relationships with one another | 0 | 9 (50%) | 9 (50%) |
| 8. I understand the roles of other health professionals within an IPE team | 1 (6%) | 11 (61%) | 6 (33%) |
| 9. Patient/client-centeredness increases when care is delivered by an IPE team | 3 (17%) | 6 (33%) | 9 (50%) |
| 10. During their education, health professional students should be involved in teamwork with students from different disciplines in order to understand their respective roles | 1 (6%) | 9 (50%) | 8 (44%) |

*Disagree (n=1)
**Disagree (n=2)

DISCUSSION

As mentioned above HTN and Diabetes were the 2 main services provided by Open School representing 23% and 14% respectively with other services including nutrition, smoking cessation, medication adherence, exercise, and mental health management. The SPICE-R2 survey completed by 18 student volunteers revealed that most students agree that working as an interprofessional team helps to enhance their education as well as improve patient care and outcomes.

CONCLUSION

The re-engagement efforts of UCOS following the pandemic have demonstrated significant community participation and impactful interventions. Despite challenges, UCOS has maintained a consistent presence while offering valuable health services and fostering interprofessional collaboration among students.