

BACKGROUND

There has been a growing awareness that social determinants of health (SDOH), such as socioeconomic status, housing, and transportation, play a critical role in people's health over the life course. One approach to addressing SDOH in clinical practice is through interprofessional collaboration. At Tufts University School of Dental Medicine (TUSDM), third-year dental students learn through a 3.5-hour team-based workshop with and from pharmacy, social work, and nutrition students. Students think critically about their role and cultivate relationships with other disciplines on a healthcare team to provide holistic, equitable healthcare. Students role-play patient scenarios, collaborating and applying their knowledge.

OVERVIEW

Twelve workshops were completed during the 2023-2024 academic year (N=380).

The rotation had three main components:

1. Pre- and post-rotation assessments
2. Collaborative break-out sessions (Figure 1)
3. A case-based role-play exercise

These components were developed collaboratively with faculty from dentistry, social work, pharmacy, diet and nutrition, and nursing. Before the rotation, students were asked to complete a pre-assessment, which included the [Interprofessional Socialization and Valuing Scale \(ISVS-9A\)](#) and [SDOH Knowledge Acquisition questions](#). After the session, students were asked to take a post-assessment, which included the same questions that were part of the pre-assessment. Through these assessments, we compared knowledge acquisition of SDOH and beliefs, attitudes, and practice behaviors of interprofessional collaboration among students from various disciplines.

We also collected student evaluations of the rotation. **The evaluation included the following questions:**

1. What did you find most useful in the IPE rotation?
2. What part of the IPE rotation did you least enjoy or find least valuable to your learning?
3. Describe your professional role in the healthcare team to address SDOH in clinical practice.

Collaborative Approaches to Addressing Social Determinants of Health in Clinical Practice: Implementation of an Interprofessional Education (IPE) Rotation in Dental Education

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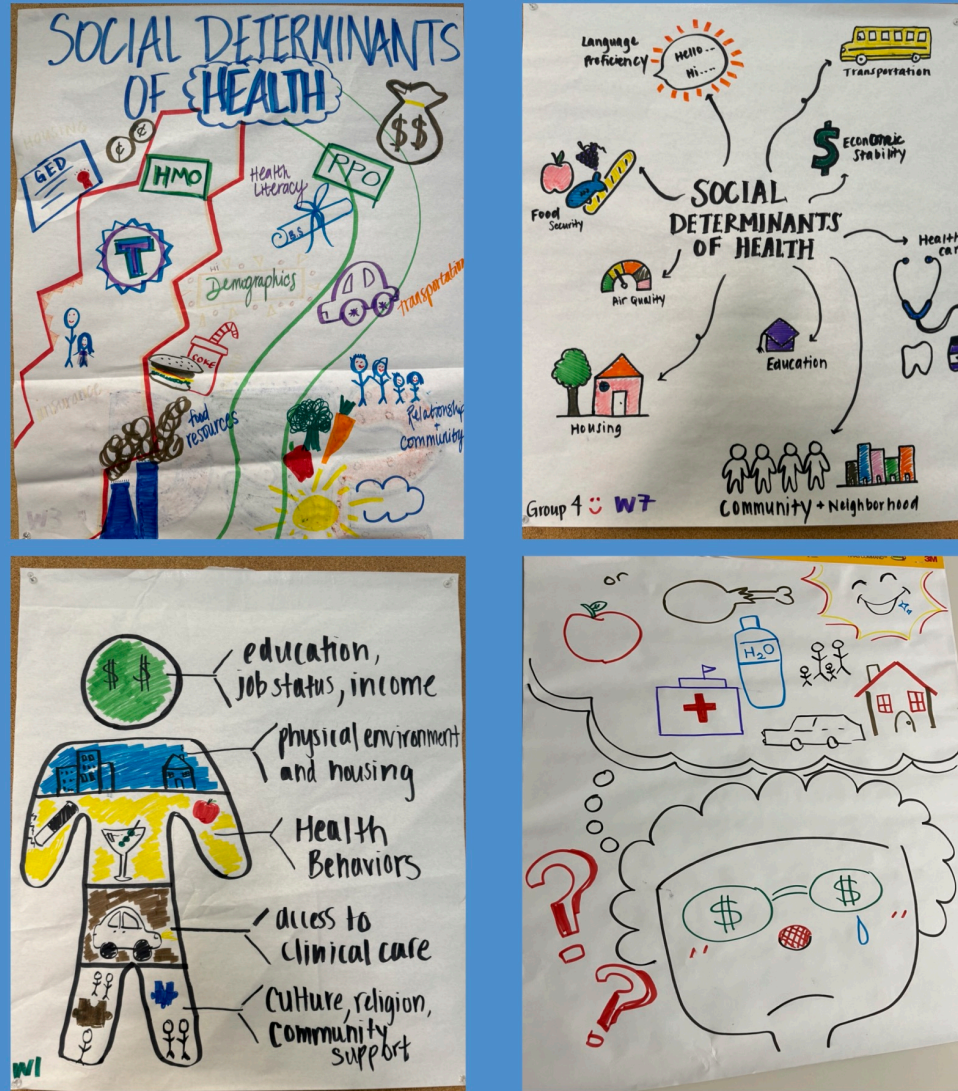


FIGURE 1
 IPE Rotation Student Depictions of Social Determinants of Health

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Identify the psychosocial needs of patients with complex health conditions and their impact on patient care. [Linkages: IPEC Competency: Values and Ethics; TUSDM Competency: Oral Health Promotion]
2. Identify shared and discipline-specific roles and responsibilities related to patient care and at least three ways health professionals across disciplines can collaborate to improve patient outcomes. [Linkages: IPEC Competency: Roles and Responsibilities; TUSDM Competency: Oral Health Promotion]
3. Recognize examples of interprofessional best practices to optimize collaborative care for complex patients. [Linkages: IPEC Competency: Interprofessional Communication; Teams and Teamwork; TUSDM Competency: Oral Health Promotion]
4. Use professional team communication strategies (sharing ideas/answering other students' questions) to effectively collaborate with other disciplines and individualize care plans for a complex patient. [Linkages: IPEC Competency: Interprofessional Communication; Teams and Teamwork; TUSDM Competency: Oral Health Promotion]

TABLE 1

Overview of IPE Rotation Participants (N=380)

Discipline	N (%)
Dental	236 (62.11%)
Pharmacy	137 (36.05%)
Social Work	3 (0.79%)
Diet & Nutrition	3 (0.79%)
Occupational Therapy	1 (0.26%)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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