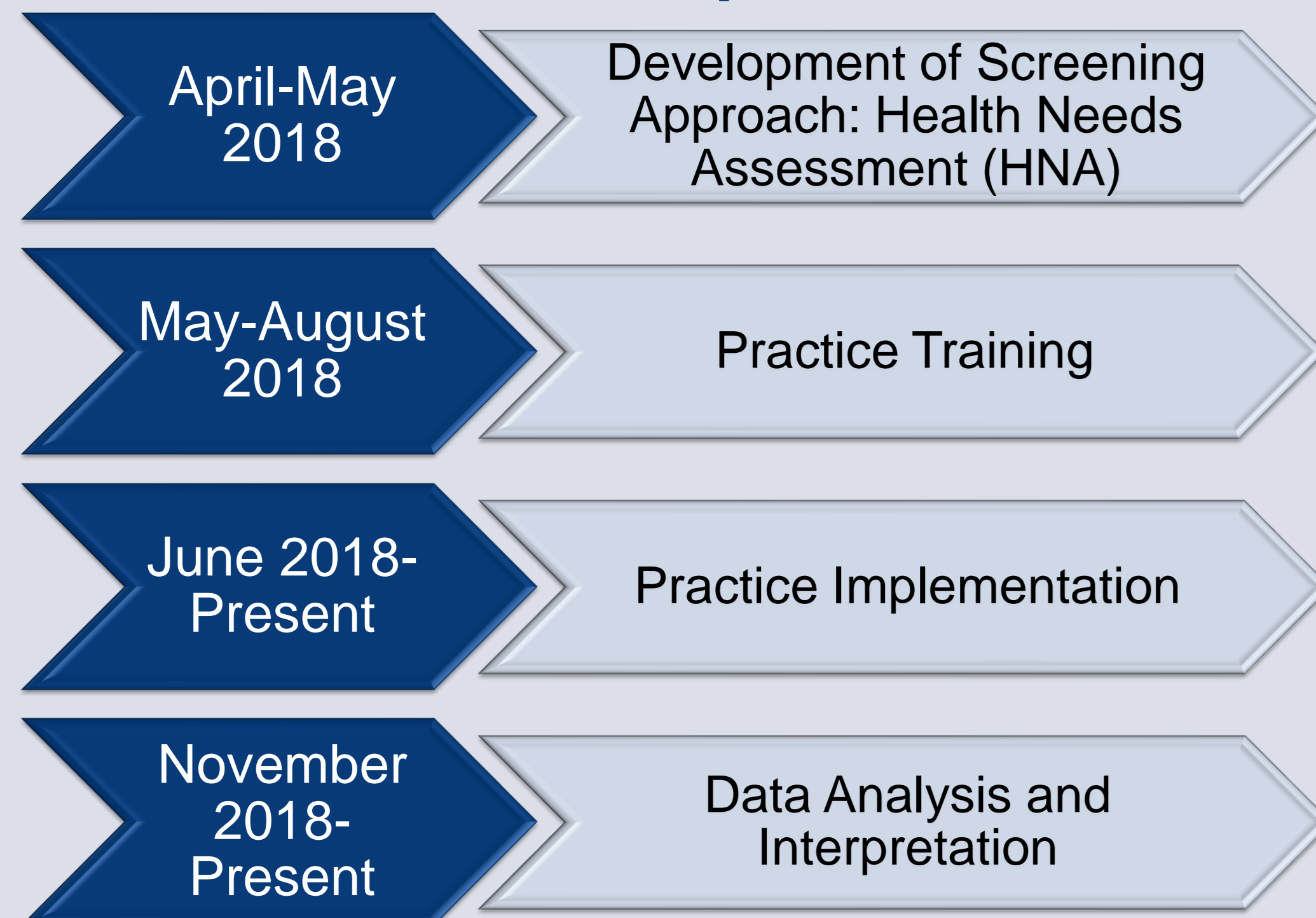


## Background

The socioeconomic background of children has been strongly associated with health status and outcomes, including educational achievement, socioemotional development, and physical health.<sup>1</sup> The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has recently called upon pediatric primary care providers to expand their scope of practice and begin universally screening for socioeconomic factors during patient visits.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, some performance measurement programs have begun to employ measures to quantify the level at which health care providers are assessing the risk of health-related social needs. Though the AAP has not endorsed a specific social needs screening tool, numerous tools have been developed, including Health Leads' social needs screening tool.<sup>3</sup>

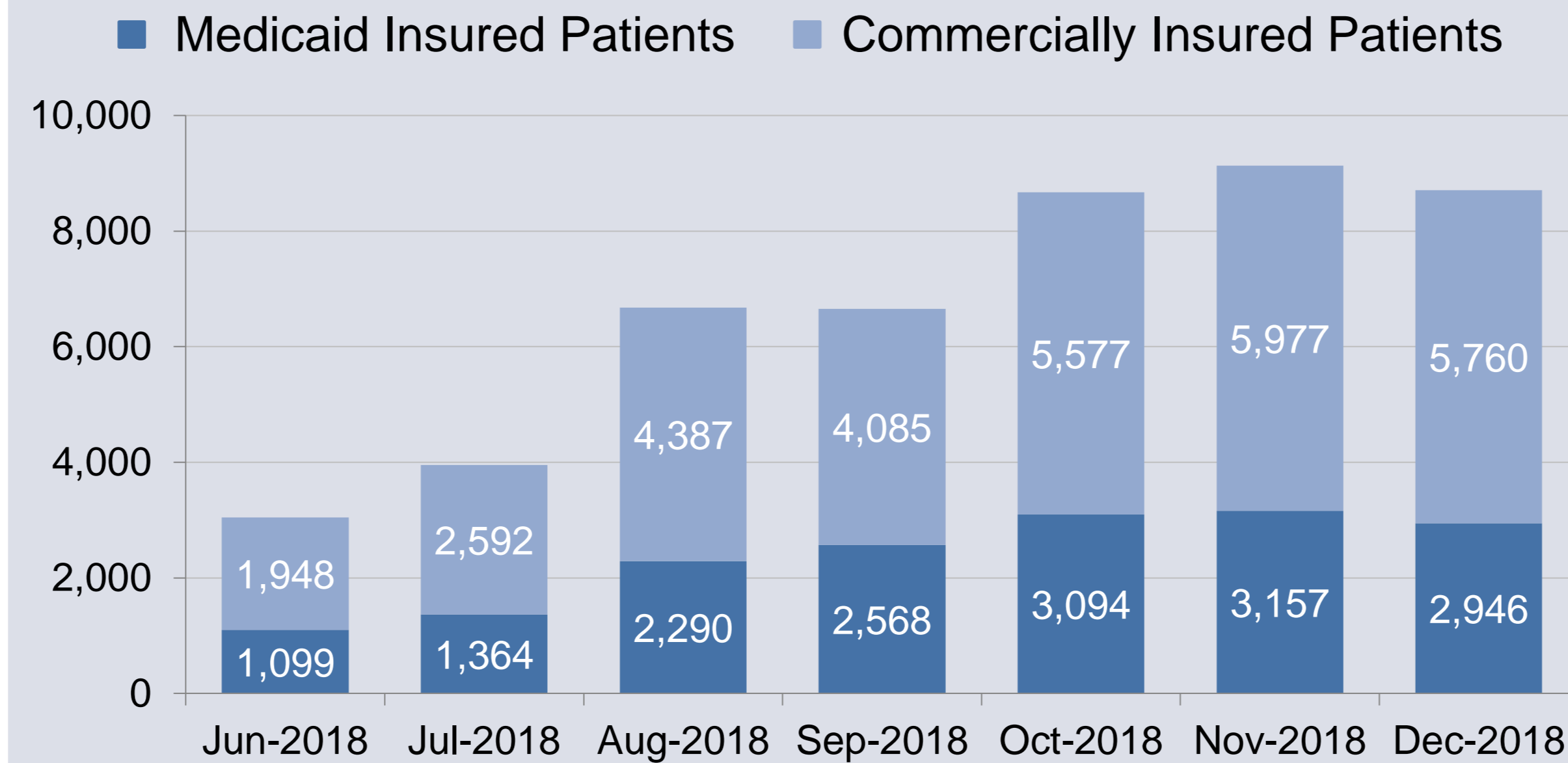
**Project Aim:** To develop and implement a screening tool for a network of primary care providers that reliably identifies the social needs of pediatric patients and their families.

## Process of Implementation

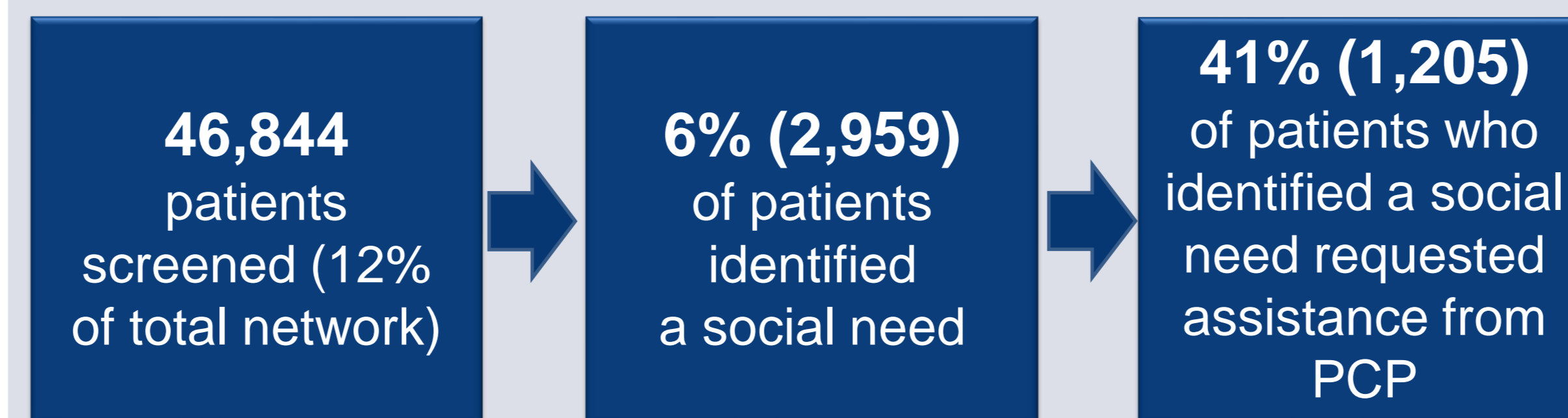
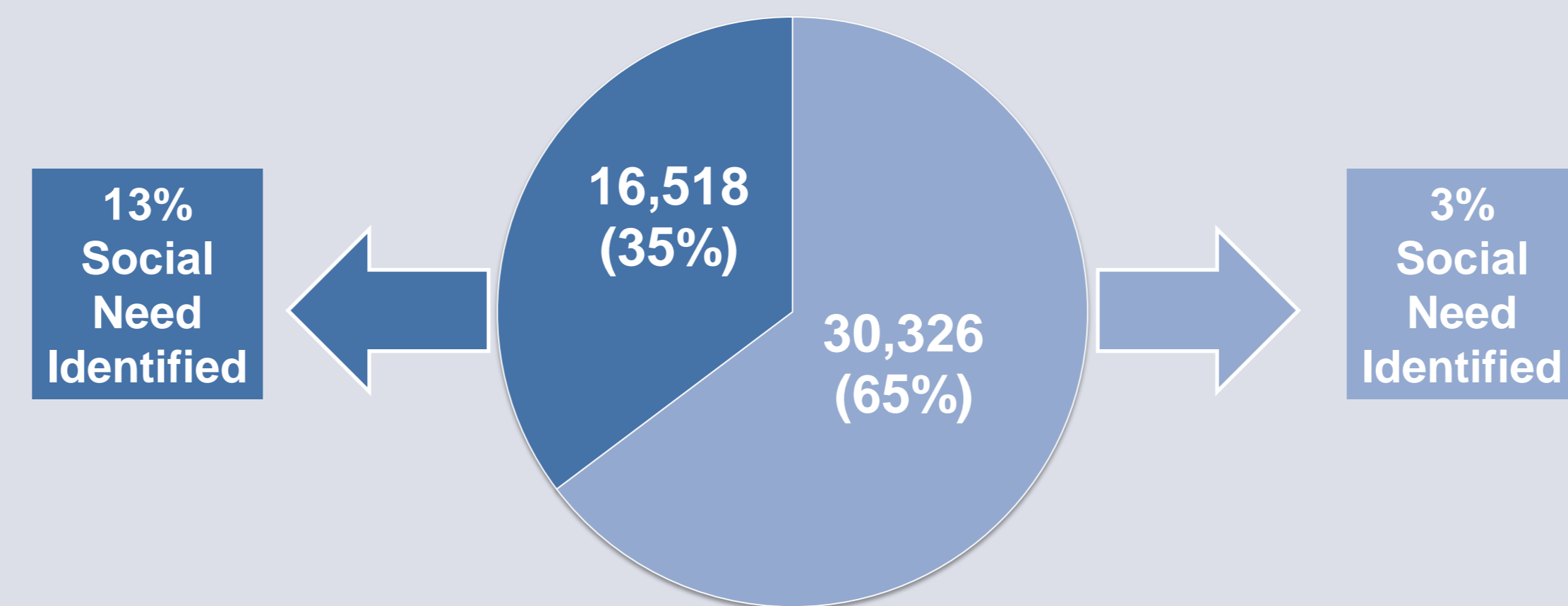


## Results

### Health Needs Assessments Completed

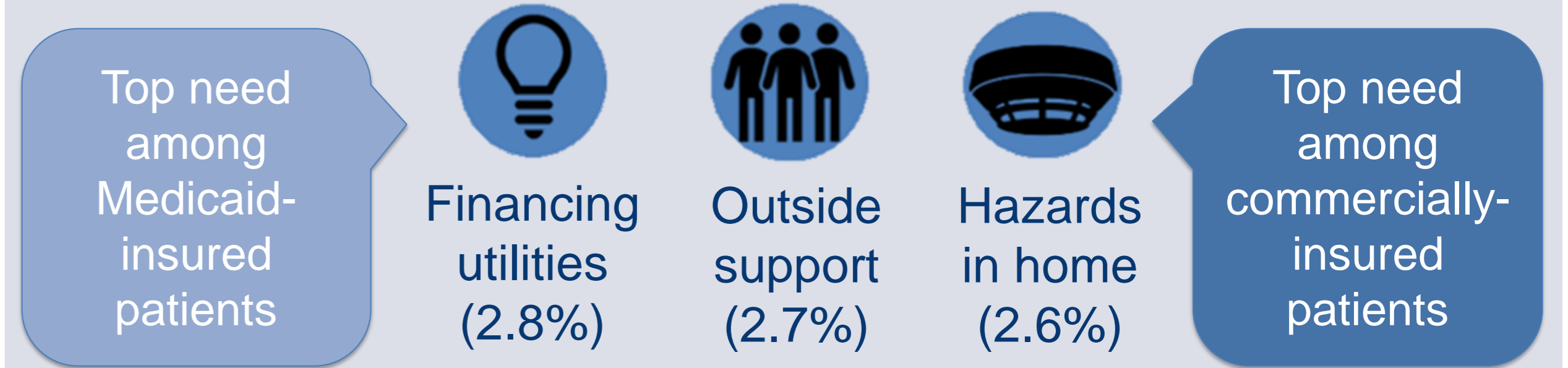


### Completed HNA and Prevalence of Identified Social Needs, by Insurance Type, June – Dec 2018



## Results (cont.)

### Top categories of identified need among patients screened



## Lessons Learned & Next Steps

- Opportune and recommended setting for HNA completion: annual well visit
- Low prevalence of reported social needs in this initial cohort; studies have shown higher rates of social needs in more diverse populations
- More research, is needed to identify the most appropriate methods, frequency, and populations for social needs screening
- Next steps include developing a tracking system for referrals/assistance

## References

1. Adler NE, Rehkopf DH. U.S. disparities in health: descriptions, causes, and mechanisms. *Annu Rev Public Health*. 2008;29:235-52.
2. AAP Council on Community Pediatrics. Poverty and Child Health in the United States. *Pediatrics*. 2016; 137(4):e20160339.
3. Health Leads. (2018). *Social needs screening toolkit* [PDF file]. Retrieved from [www.healthleadsusa.org](http://www.healthleadsusa.org).

**We are the Pediatric Physicians' Organization at Children's (PPOC)**

- 450+ pediatric primary care providers
- 100+ locations throughout Massachusetts
- ~400,000 patients
- 1,000,000+ office visits annually

# Process of Implementation

## Timeline

### Screening Development April-May 2018

- The PPOC adapted the Health Leads screening tool to develop the Health Needs Assessment (HNA) and Toolkit for use by practice staff
- The HNA was embedded into the Electronic Health Record (EHR), Epic

### Practice Training May-August 2018

- The PPOC trained practice staff to implement the HNA and to document the results in the EHR
- Training methods included in-person meetings, webinars, the Toolkit and tipsheets

### Practice Implementation June 2018-Present

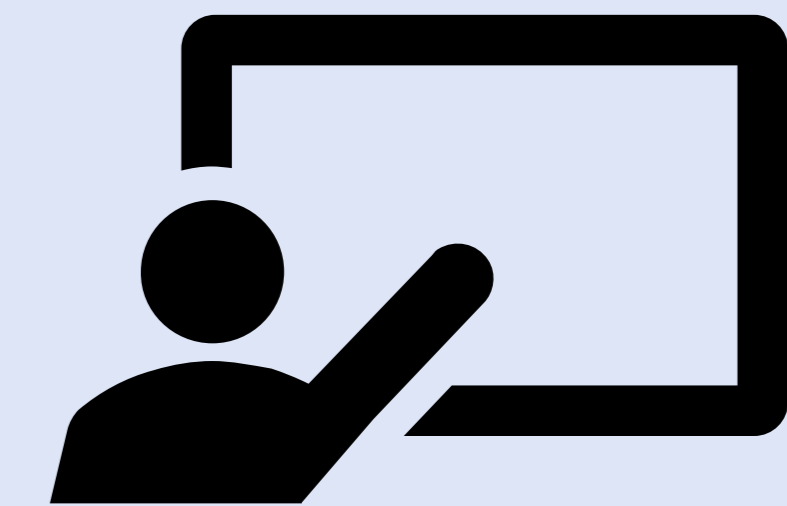
- Practices started distributing HNAs to patients/families on paper and verbally
- Results were entered into the EHR
- The HNA was translated into 6 languages (Spanish, European Portuguese, Traditional Chinese, Arabic, Russian, Haitian Creole)

### Data Analysis & Interpretation November 2018-Present

- YTD HNA data captured in the EHR was shared with practices
- HNA data from June-December 2018 was used in this preliminary analysis of screening implementation and results
- Analyses were run using SAS software

## Implementation Tools

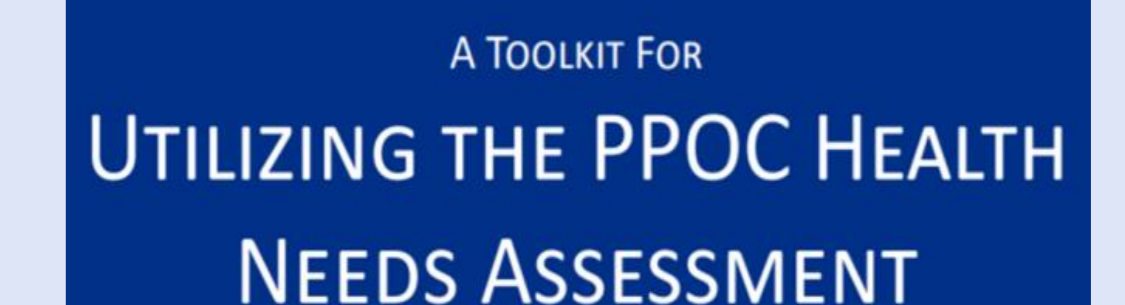
### In-Person and Virtual Training



### Electronic Health Record Integration



### Training/Resource Materials



# Health Needs Assessment



In the last 12 months, did you or your family ever **eat less than you felt you should** because there wasn't enough money for food?



Are you worried that in the next 2 months you **may not have stable housing**?



Think about the place you live. Do you have problems with any of the following? **Pests (mice or roaches), mold, no/not working smoke detectors, water leaks, no window guards.**



In the last 12 months, has the **electric, gas, oil, or water company threatened to shut off your services** in your home?



In the last 12 months, have you or your family ever had to go without health care because you didn't have a **way to get there**?



Are you or your family worried about feeling **safe in your home**?



Do you feel that you need more **support from other people or programs** to help you care for yourself or your family?



Do you need help **understanding your or your child's healthcare needs** (diagnosis, medications, plan, etc.)?



In the last 12 months, was there a time when your child needed to see a doctor or get medications or supplies **but could not because of cost**?



Did you or your child **miss school or work** because of a health problem that could have been avoided?



If you checked YES to any boxes above, **would you like to receive assistance** with any of these needs?