

A Novel Approach to Introducing Social Determinants of Health within the Pediatrics Clerkship

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Background

Health System Science and Interprofessional Practice (HSSIP) is incorporated into the longitudinal curriculum at VTCSOM as a conceptual framework for the study of how health systems may improve patient care via collaboration and through the intricacies of care delivery.

The Pediatrics Department has focused on the study of social determinants of health (SDOH) and highlighting impacts on patient care. Early introduction to SDOH during clinical rotations is vital in emphasizing their importance on patient care outcomes and can prepare learners to effectively deliver care in the context of complex social factors.

Including the core competency of HSSIP into medical education curricula will better prepare future physicians to be systems citizens who can contribute to high-value care in an ever-changing landscape of complex health care.

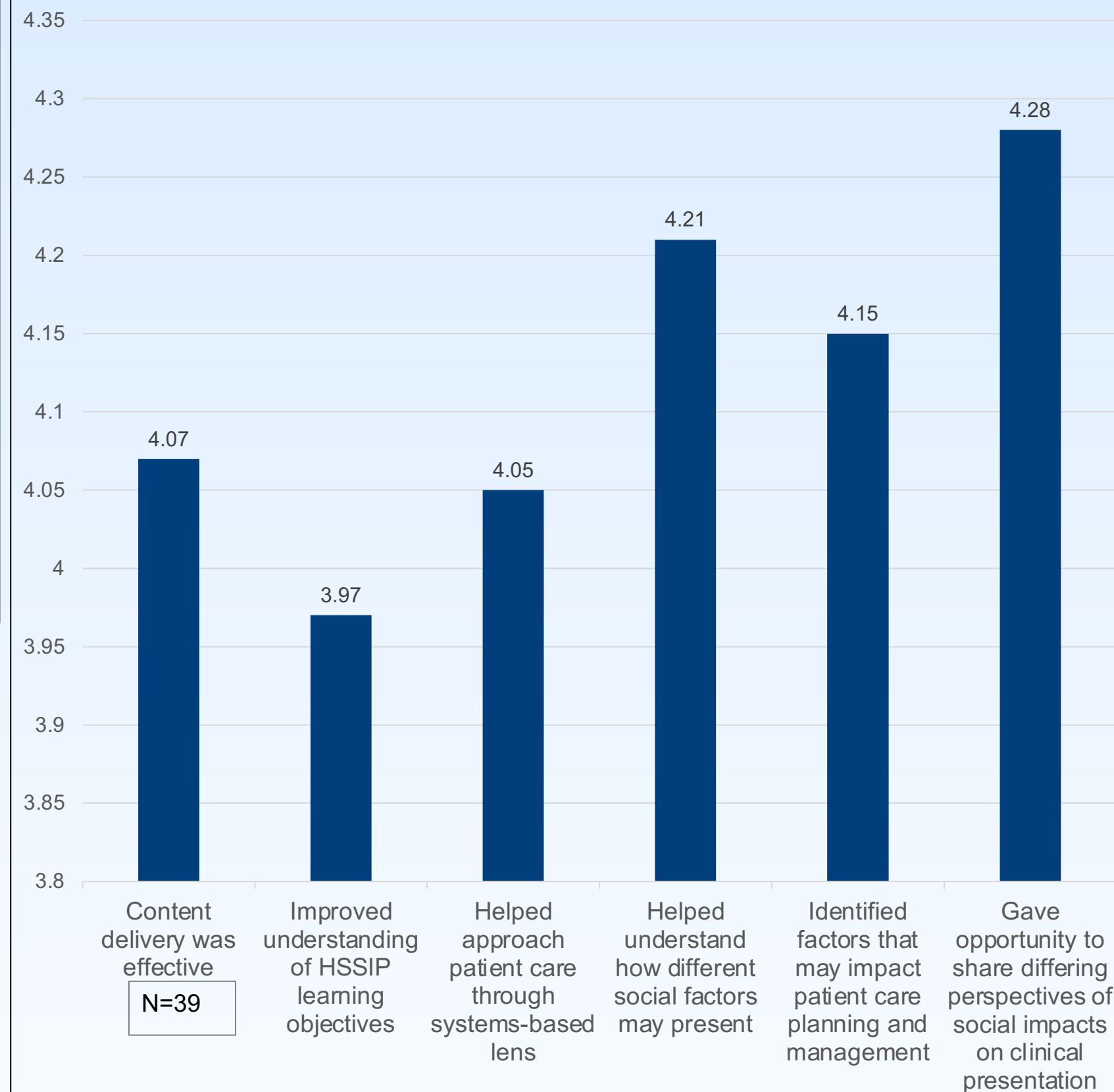
Methods

A novel HSSIP didactic session was introduced into the VTCSOM Pediatrics Clerkship using a flipped-classroom model in which learners presented SOAP-SDOH case studies to peers and an interprofessional panel, with the goal of tying HSSIP concepts to the clinical context. Presentations incorporated a selection of one identified variable and discussion of its wider impact on health care.

Session evaluations were given across AY 22-23. Learners (n=39) were asked to evaluate on a 5-point Likert scale how effectively the session improved their understanding of SDOH and if the format aided in learner approach to patient care from a systems-based perspective.

Open-ended questions focused on what was learned, what was effective, the impact on future practice, and suggestions for improvement. All questions were required.

Results



Learners conveyed via open-ended responses that the session:

- Improved knowledge acquisition;
- Increased interest in understanding the impact of SDOH on patients; and
- Contributed to their professional development.

Results (continued)

Utilizing a thematic analysis, two overarching themes emerged from the data.

1. **Interdisciplinary collaboration** is perceived as a **desired approach** that creates value-add for the learner experience.
2. **Diversity of perspective** regarding how SDOH can impact patient outcomes **generates interest** on the part of learners.

Conclusion & Discussion

SDOH have long been understood to impact patient healthcare outcomes and well-being, and as a result have been increasingly incorporated into medical education.

Overall learners rated the session positively, with particular emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration and real-world applications.

Introduction of HSSIP and SDOH concepts into a pediatric clerkship is feasible, effective, and well-received, and allows learners to critically consider the implications of SDOH on patient care.

Next Steps

More research is needed to understand the impact of the longitudinal HSSIP curriculum on patient care.

Adding in the effect of policy on the clinical presentation of SDOH at local, state, and federal levels.

Formal assessment of SOAP-SDOH activity to tie in curricular goals of HSSIP.

Continuing evaluations of the effects on learner outcomes.