



Addressing Social Determinants of Health

Step One . . . Food Insecurity

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Background

The WHO defines social determinants of health (SDoH) as the 'wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life'. These determinants include poverty, housing instability, lack of transportation, health literacy, and food insecurity¹ among many others. SDoH can drive as much as 80% of health outcomes¹ which contributes to high health care expenses, readmissions and poor health outcomes. Food insecurity is one of the main factors in these determinants. Food insecurity is defined as the disruption of food intake or eating patterns because of a lack of money and other resources²

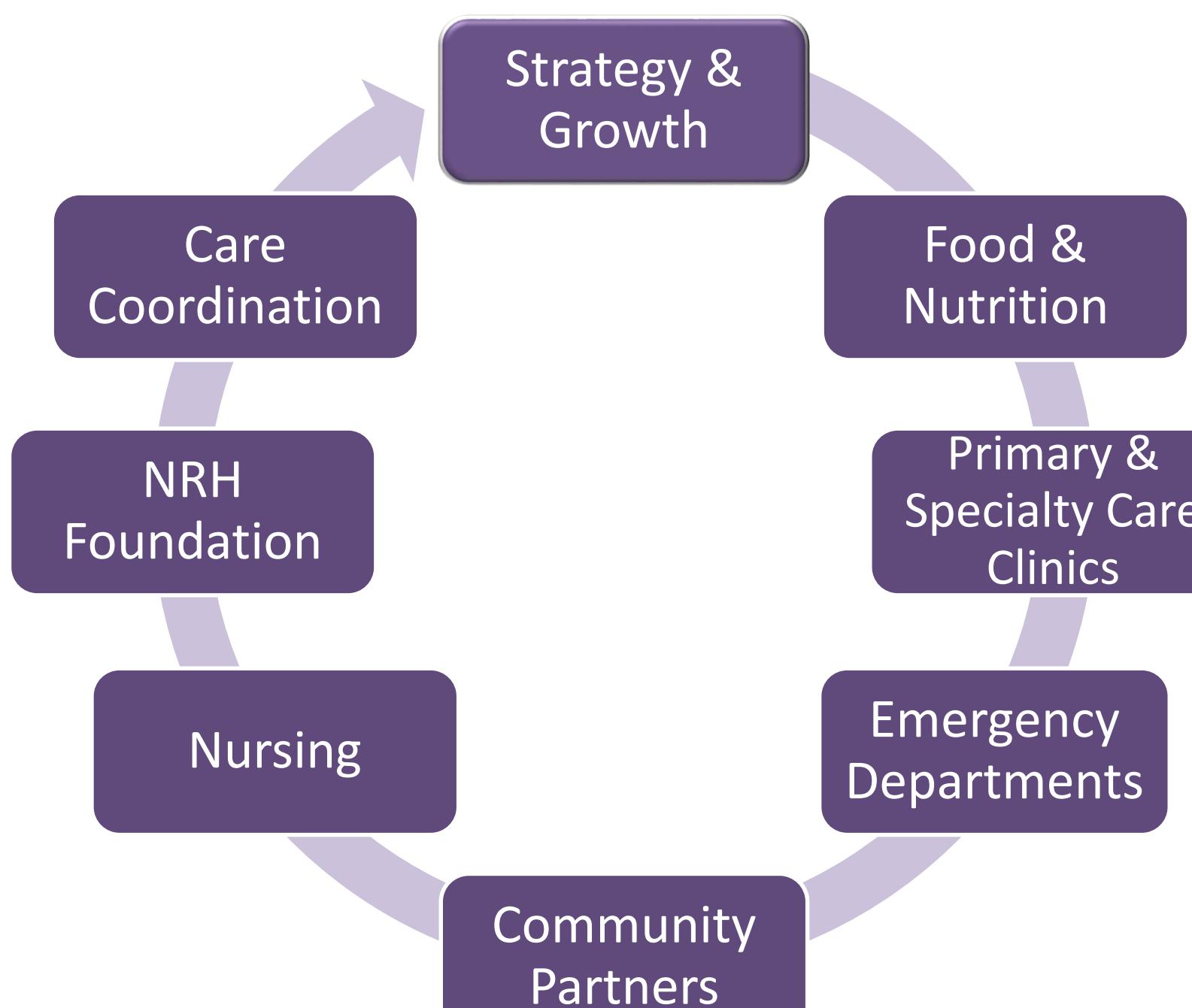
- 76% of hospitals DO NOT screen for SDoH³
- 5th in the nation: Oklahoma's ranking for food insecurity⁴
- 66% of households must choose between food or medical care⁵

Project Summary

In 2020, Norman Regional Health System developed a program to identify and address food insecurity. The Food Pharmacy addresses food insecurity and malnourishment for patients at multiple levels of care. A CM/SW discusses and identifies an appropriate long term food resource for the patient. A 2 week supply of food is distributed at discharge. Providing this immediate supply is a short term fix for a long term problem. Additionally, a post discharge call is made to the patient to discuss the food received and to discuss the connection with the long term resource to ensure this recommendation is in place and remove further barriers.

- 03/2020 - Food Pharmacy Committee formed - internal and external community partners
- 05/2020 - Data collection begins – screening of all acute admissions to hospital
- 10/2020 - Acute Hospital food distribution GO LIVE
- 07/2021 - ER food distribution GO LIVE
- 12/2021 - Primary Care Clinic PILOT

Collaboration

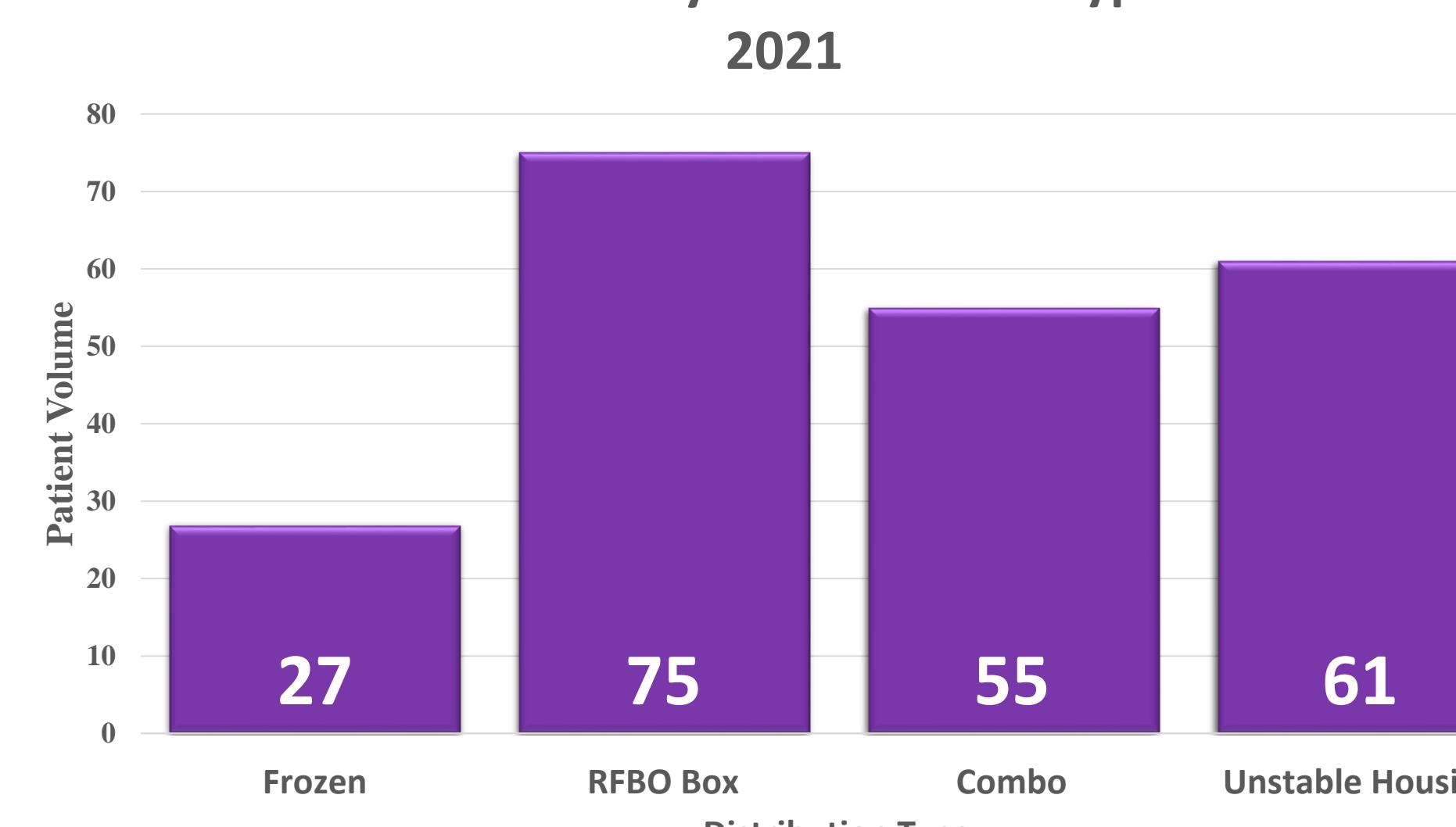


Phase One Process

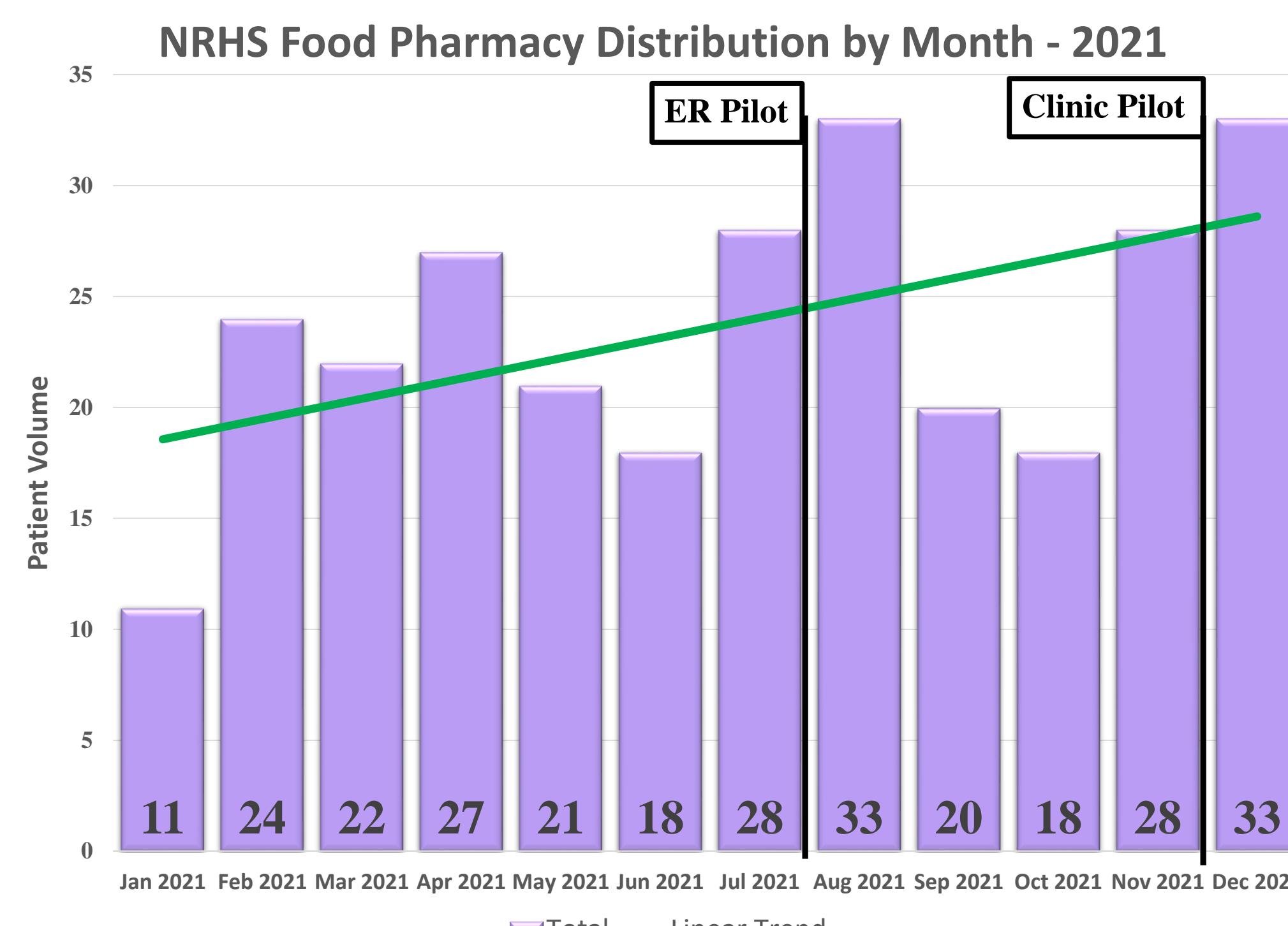
- Patient screened for food insecurity at admission
- Daily food insecurity report reviewed by Case Management team
- CM/SW interviews patient:
 - Identifies long term food resource
 - Provides written resource material
- CM/SW assess for frozen / non-perishable options
- CM/SW reviews EMR:
 - Allergies
 - Dietary restrictions / swallowing precautions
- CM/SW coordinates food distribution at Discharge
- Data points collected and documented
- 5 - 7 days Transition of Care Team Phone Call:
 - Food effectiveness survey & follow-up long term resource
 - Assist with other identified care needs

Food Options

NRHS Food Pharmacy Distribution - Types of Food



Food Distribution

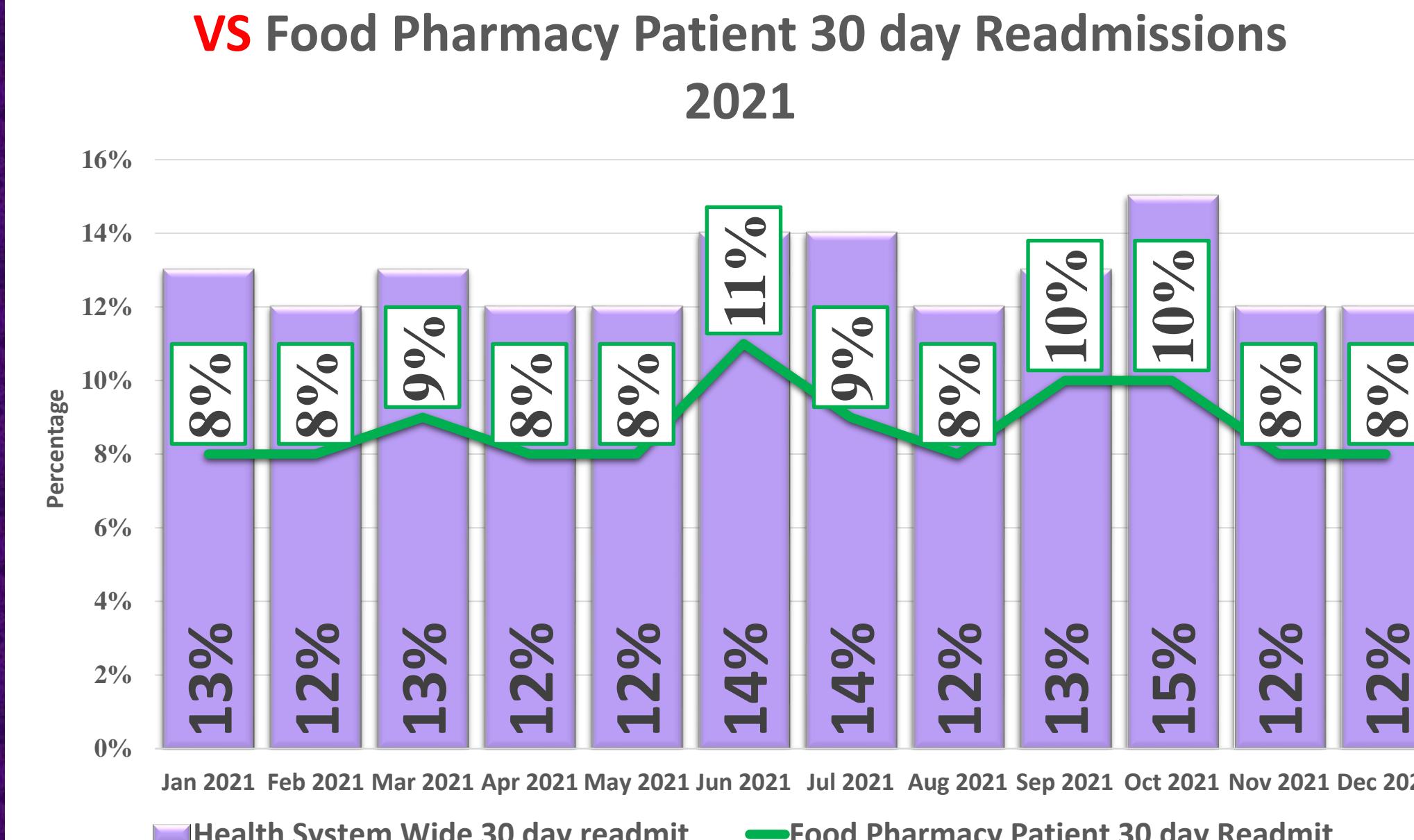


Outcomes

- 400+ patients provided food to date
- 33% reduction in readmissions (comparison of Food Pharmacy group vs average NRHS readmission)
- 62% of patient group had additional care coordination needs identified by follow-up calls
- 46% of patients connected to verifiable long-term resources (SNAP, MOW, etc.)

30 Day Readmissions

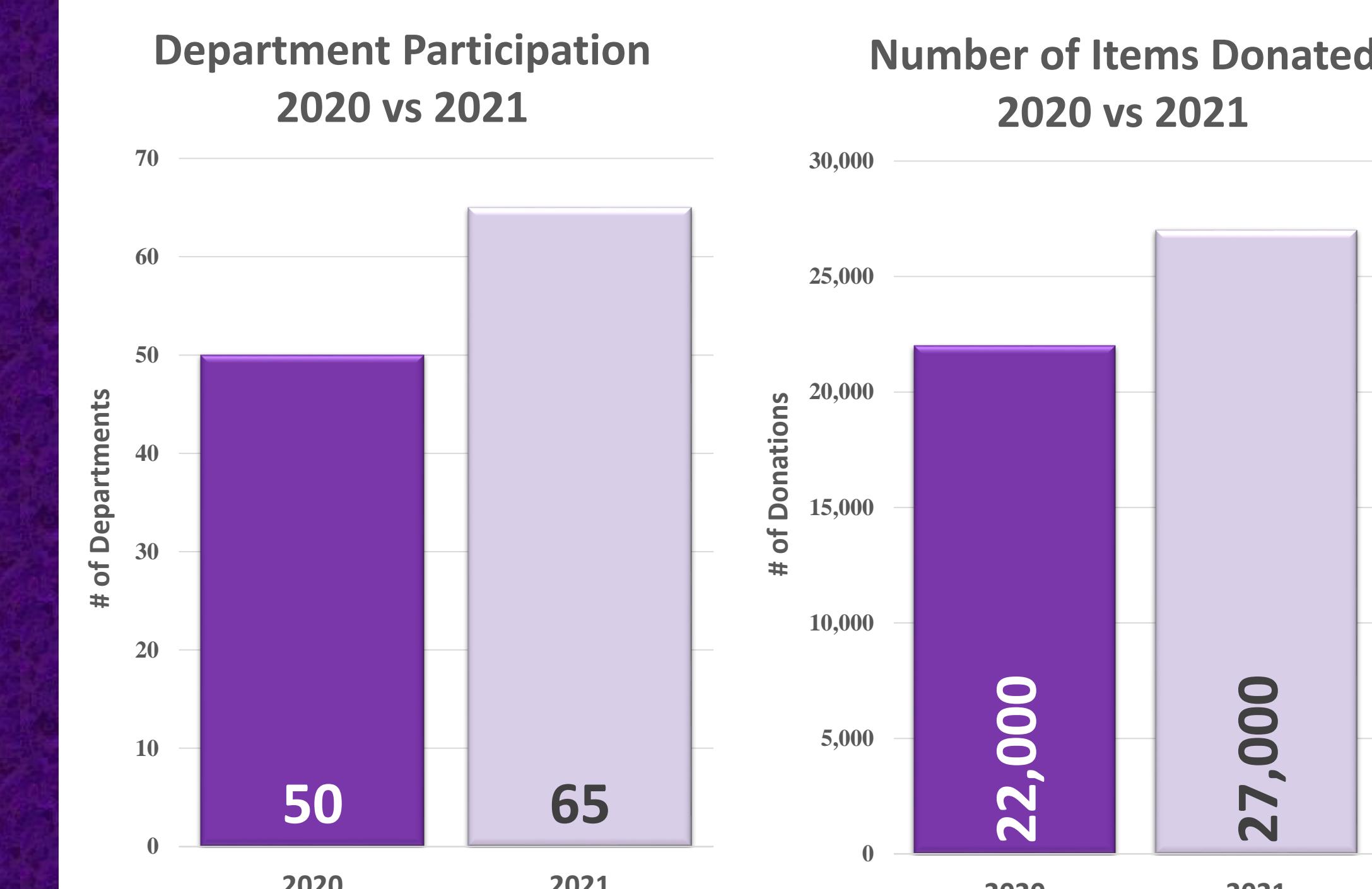
Comparison of NRHS CMS 30 day Readmissions
VS Food Pharmacy Patient 30 day Readmissions



Sustainability

- Regional Food Bank (RFBO) grant partnership
- Annual NRHS Employee Food Drive
- NRHS Foundation Grants
- NRHS iGIVE spotlight (Annual employee giving)
- Additional external grant funding
- Community Food Drives – community partners (Chamber of Commerce, etc.)

Annual Food Drive



Next Steps

- Screen / Distribute food at all primary & specialty care clinics
- Design and develop team to comprehensively identify/address SDoH
- Begin screening for SDoH throughout NRHS
 - Food insecurity
 - Unstable housing
 - Utilities
 - Unreliable transportation
 - Health literacy
 - Interpersonal safety
 - Medication adherence

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