



Penn Medicine  
Abramson Cancer Center



Penn Medicine  
Department of Surgery

*National Cancer Policy Forum Biological Effectors of SDOH in Cancer: Identification and Mitigation*

# Policy Opportunities to Address SDOH on Cancer Outcomes and Improve the Evidence Base on the Impact of SDOH on Biological Outcomes

## *The Research Perspective*

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## Funding

- NIH Award Number 1K08CA241390 (PI: Fayanju, 2019-present)
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- Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) (PI: Fayanju, 2023-present)

# Collecting and Intervening upon Modifiable Contributors to Disparity:

## *Social Determinants of Health*

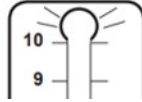
- ↑↑↑ Rates of missingness and misinformation of social history data in EMR
- Who collects this data?
  - Temporal and financial pressures in outpatient primary and specialty care
  - Patient vs clinic staff vs provider entry
  - Data entry platform: paper/pencil, electronic, hybrid
- When do we collect this data?
  - Periodic
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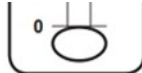
# The NCCN Distress Thermometer

- ▶ Duke Cancer Center, Jan 2014 – Jul 2016
- ▶ 1029 women → 12,569 visits (67 mos f/u)
- ▶ Increased distress over time for women breast cancer who were...
  - Unmarried
  - Medicaid recipients
- Median DT score = 4 (scale 0-10) but....
- Black patients
  - Reported lower baseline scores
  - Experienced less improvement in distress over time

**NCCN DISTRESS THERMOMETER**

Instructions: Please circle the number (0–10) that best describes how much distress you have been experiencing in the past week including today.

Extreme distress 

No distress 

**PROBLEM LIST**  
Please indicate if any of the following has been a problem for you in the past week including today.  
Be sure to check YES or NO for each.

YES NO <u>Practical Problems</u>		YES NO <u>Physical Problems</u>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Child care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appearance
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bathing/dressing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insurance/financial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Breathing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Changes in urination
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work/school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Constipation
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Treatment decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eating
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fatigue
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Feeling swollen
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fevers
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Getting around
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Indigestion
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Memory/concentration
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mouth sores
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nausea
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nose dry/congested
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pain
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skin dry/itchy
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sleep
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substance abuse
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tingling in hands/feet

**Family Problems**

☐ ☐ Spiritual/religious concerns

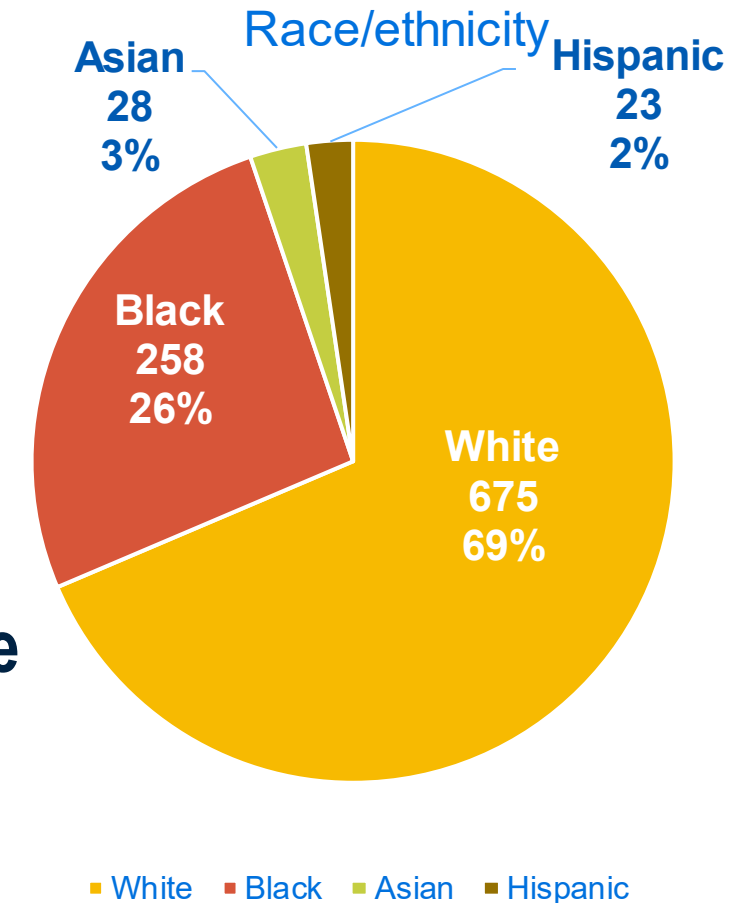
Other Problems: \_\_\_\_\_

**Why?**

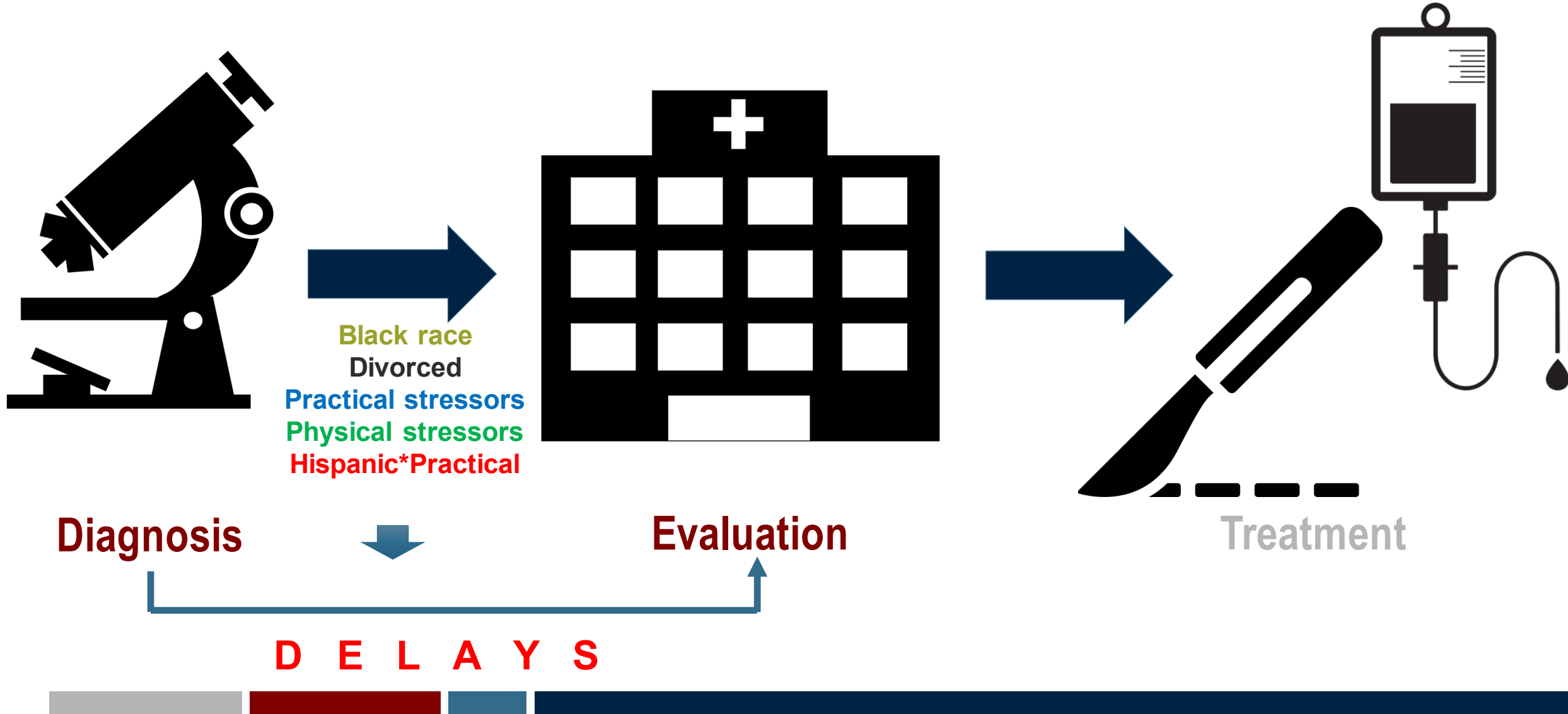
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# Levels and causes of distress at 1<sup>st</sup> visit – Breast Cancer

- ▶ Asian/PI & Hispanic patients had highest median DT scores (score = 5,  $p=0.01$ )
- ▶ Black patients had lowest median DT score (3, IQR 0-6)
- ▶ **Emotional**, **physical**, and **practical** stressors → ↑ **distress**
- ▶ **Black** patients ↑ likely to report **no distress** than **Whites**
  - ZINB zero model OR 2.72, 95% CI 1.68-4.40
- ▶ **Black** patients ***only racial/ethnic group*** with median DT score IQR 0-6) **below** the **automatic referral** threshold score of 4
- ▶ No difference in number of stressors ( $p=0.07$ )



# Impact of distress on time-to-evaluation & time-to-treatment



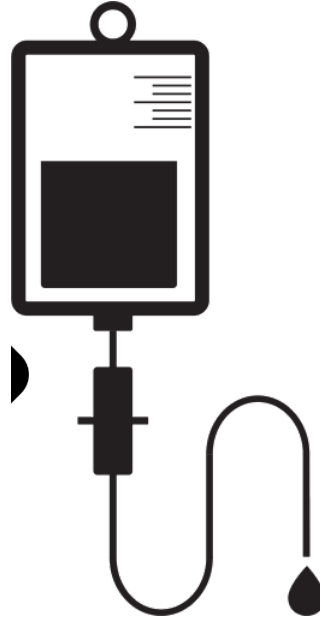
# Impact of distress on time-to-evaluation & time-to-treatment



Black race  
Practical stressors

## Conclusion

By the time someone arrives for her visit, the die has been cast. We have to start sooner.



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***Oncologists are information gatekeepers at key inflection points during patients' lives.***





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# Effect of Early Point-of-Service Social and Behavioral Determinants of Health (SBDoh) Screening and Enhanced Navigation on Care Delivery for Patients with Breast Cancer **NCT06019988**

Principal Investigator: Oluwadamilola “Lola” Fayanju, MD, MA, MPHS, FACS

Sponsor: Gilead Sciences, Inc.

# Overall Goals

- ▶ We propose that early, anticipatory point-of-service screening for SBDOH – operationalized through electronic health records and linked with interventions – could redress modifiable contributors to breast cancer disparities.
- ▶ Our goal is to improve the equity, effectiveness, and efficiency of care for patients with breast cancer across the continuum – from screening to treatment to survivorship.

# Study Objectives

- ▶ Aim to **identify the optimal combinations of modality and data collection instrument to facilitate SBDOH collection among diverse patients** with breast cancer at Abramson Cancer Center (ACC)
  - To compare rates of SBDOH data collection using 3 different self-administered instruments designed for SBDOH data capture vs. usual care (i.e., unstructured data collection)
  - To compare rates of SBDOH data collection by modality (Epic patient portal/MyPennMedicine [MPM], chatbot, telephone interactive voice response) and assess time to evaluation (i.e., time from biopsy to first consultation with an oncologist)
  - To evaluate (via qualitative interviews) contextual mechanisms contributing to the effectiveness of data collection tools and modalities described in the trial

# Enrollment

- ▶ Patients will be eligible based on a new patient visit (NPV) for breast cancer at HUP, PPMC, PAH, or Radnor from Mar 2024 to Feb 2025 (Goal N=2500)
- ▶ All patients who are diagnosed via percutaneous needle biopsy at Penn Radiology (internal) and all patients with a new (external) diagnosis of non-metastatic cancer who schedule an NPV with breast surgery will be contacted



# Timeline to Trial Initiation



- ▶ December 2021: Preliminary conversations with industry sponsor
- ▶ May 2022-Feb 2023: Budget finalization and contract negotiation with industry sponsor
- ▶ March 14, 2023: Discovery Workshop at the Inn at Penn, Philadelphia, PA
- ▶ March-August 2023: Protocol development in response to Discovery Workshop feedback
- ▶ July 2023: Began working with Way to Health (W2H) to adapt surveys into chatbot and IVR formats
- ▶ August 18, 2023: IRB Protocol approved
- ▶ August-October 2023:
  - Testing and troubleshooting W2H platforms by study team & pt advocates
  - Building Epic infrastructure to ensure workflow could accommodate:
    - Randomization to instrument
    - Assigning patients to survey and sending surveys to patient in user-friendly manner
    - Presentation of response data to clinicians
    - Patient opt-outs
    - Closing surveys after 48 hrs and transferring non-responders to W2H; reopening charts of W2H non-responders to administer at NPV
- ▶ October 2023-February 2024: Integrating Epic and W2H
- ▶ **March 12, 2024: Trial Launch!**



# Obstacles to Trial Initiation

- Technical
  - Limitation of existing systems (Way to Health and Epic)
  - Integration of existing systems
- People/Stakeholders
  - Unexpected concerns from key stakeholders (radiology, SW)
- Institutional
  - Unanticipated review and approval by institutional entities (e.g., Epic Questionnaire Committee, Epic Governance Board)

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**Thank you!**  
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