



# Primary Care Screening Practices for Learning Disabilities (LDs)

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## Background

- 5-10% population prevalence of LDs in US. Earlier identification is better than waiting for signs of school failure. Currently, School distress is identified through presenting concerns or general screeners.
- Gap in research: Are the current screening practices in primary care enough in identifying LDs?

## Hypothesis

- We hypothesize that the current primary care screening practices insufficiently identify learning disabilities (LDs).

## Design

- Retrospective data analysis and chart review
- Primary care clinic in a large teaching hospital of 9491 total patient visits from January through December of 2018 which included 4997 unique patients ages 6 to 17 years.
- Those with ID or ASD were excluded.
- Visits where parents answered affirmatively to single question about school difficulties on the clinic-specific psychosocial screener were selected.

# Results

- 6% of those given a psychosocial screener endorsed a school concern.
- No differences in racial diversity and language spoken were found between those endorsing school concerns and those without school concerns.
- 10 year olds most frequently endorsed school concerns.
- Those who endorsed school concerns were also more likely to have other developmental and behavioral concerns as well as psychosocial concerns addressed at their visits.
- In examining social determinants of health, we found that those with school concerns were about 6-7 times more likely to also endorse financial stress, worrying about food and food actually running out compared to all others screened.
- This is an ongoing study and therefore results are preliminary.
- All study objectives have not been examined.

