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## Voting is Healthcare: Talking Politics With Patients Can Improve Health Outcomes

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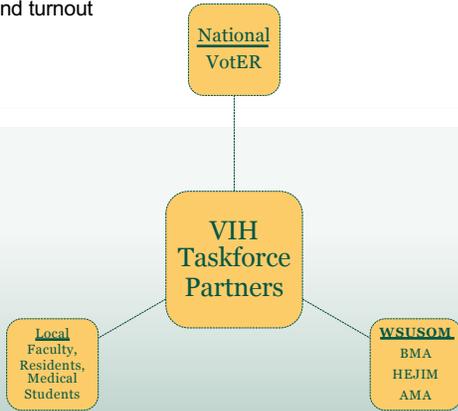
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

# Voting is Healthcare: Talking Politics With Patients Can Improve Health Outcomes

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## INTRODUCTION

- The Voting is Healthcare (VIH) Taskforce acknowledged the gap in voter turnout in Detroit
- The VIH Taskforce called upon medical students, residents, faculty and patients in order to improve voter registration and turnout



## METHODS

- The VIH Taskforce and VotER created badge backers for medical students and physicians to wear while seeing patients in clinics and hospitals
- Each badge had a Wayne-specific QR code patients could scan to learn more about the voter registration process
- Training sessions and educational materials were provided to participating students and faculty



## GOALS

### VIH Taskforce Goals For Patients and Providers:

#### Communication

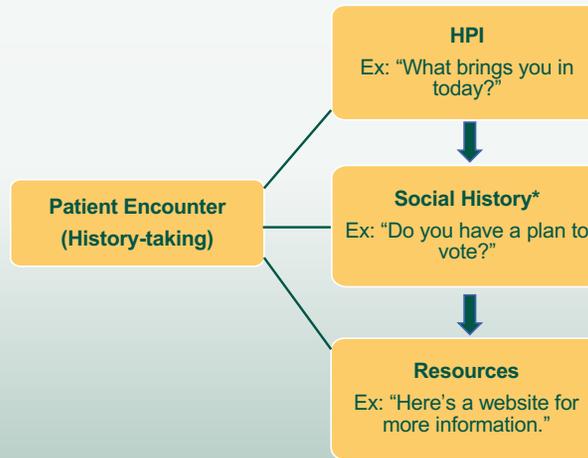
- Facilitate open-communication between physicians and healthcare workers about voting

#### Healthcare

- Declare that voting is healthcare

#### Future Patient Encounters

- Incorporate open-ended questions about voting within the patient encounter
- Ideally, this would occur during the history taking portion of the encounter



## RESULTS

- The VIH Taskforce and participants reached out to patients within the local community. Per VotER records, according to the number of times the QR code was scanned or the Wayne-specific link was visited, the following patient data was collected-
  - 84 patients voted
  - 34 patients were newly registered voters
  - 50 patients voted from home

## CONCLUSION

- Physicians can play an active role in increasing civic engagement
- Future research plans include directly comparing voting status to specific health outcomes

## REFERENCES

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