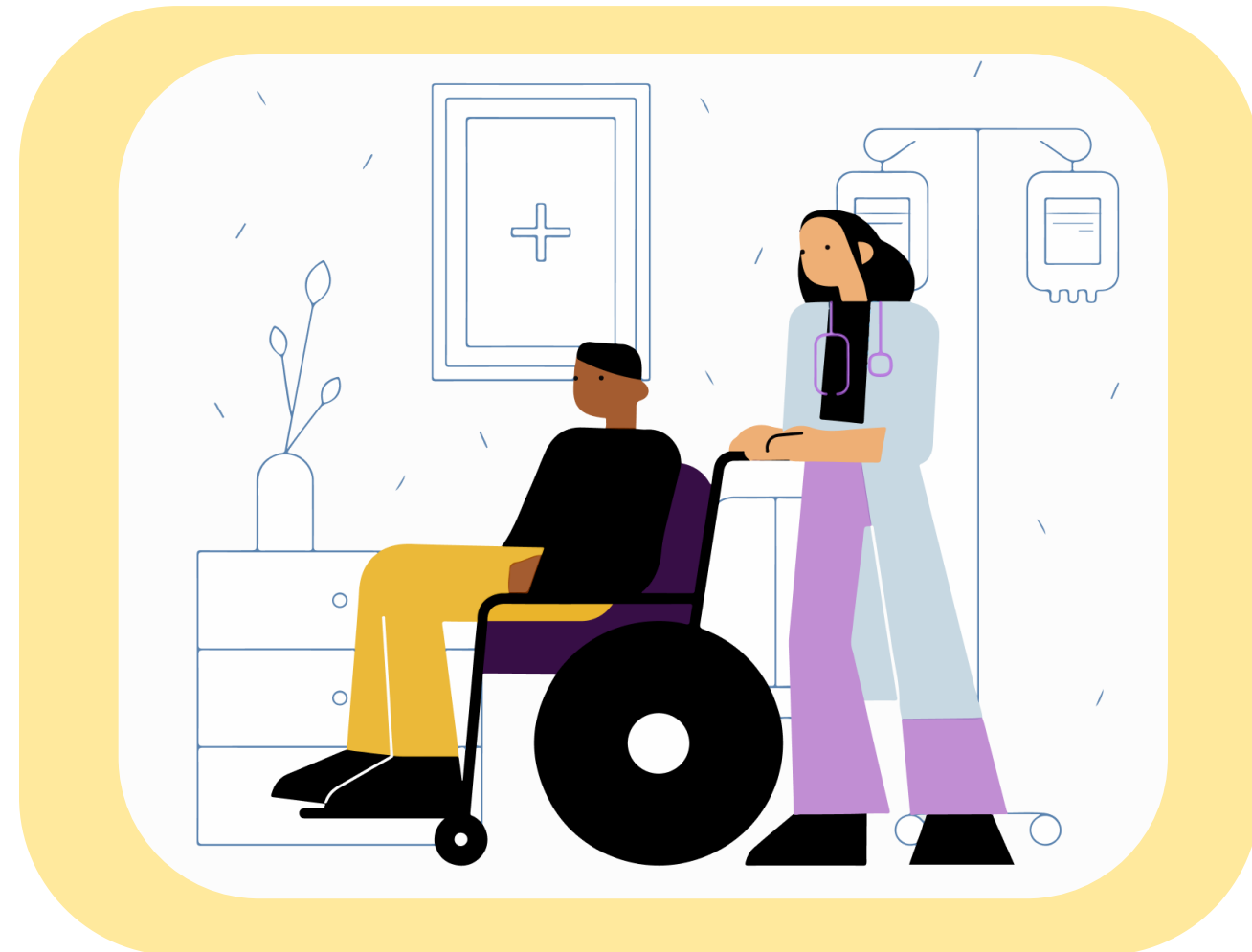


PROBLEM

- Empathy is regarded as essential in healthcare^{1,2}
- Inadequate documentation of Social Determinants of Health (SDH) negatively impacts patient care and exacerbates health disparities³
- Further investigation is needed to explore the correlation between physician empathy and the recording of SDH in primary care settings



NEED/RATIONALE

Improving patient-centered care reduces disparities, and enhances overall health outcomes⁷

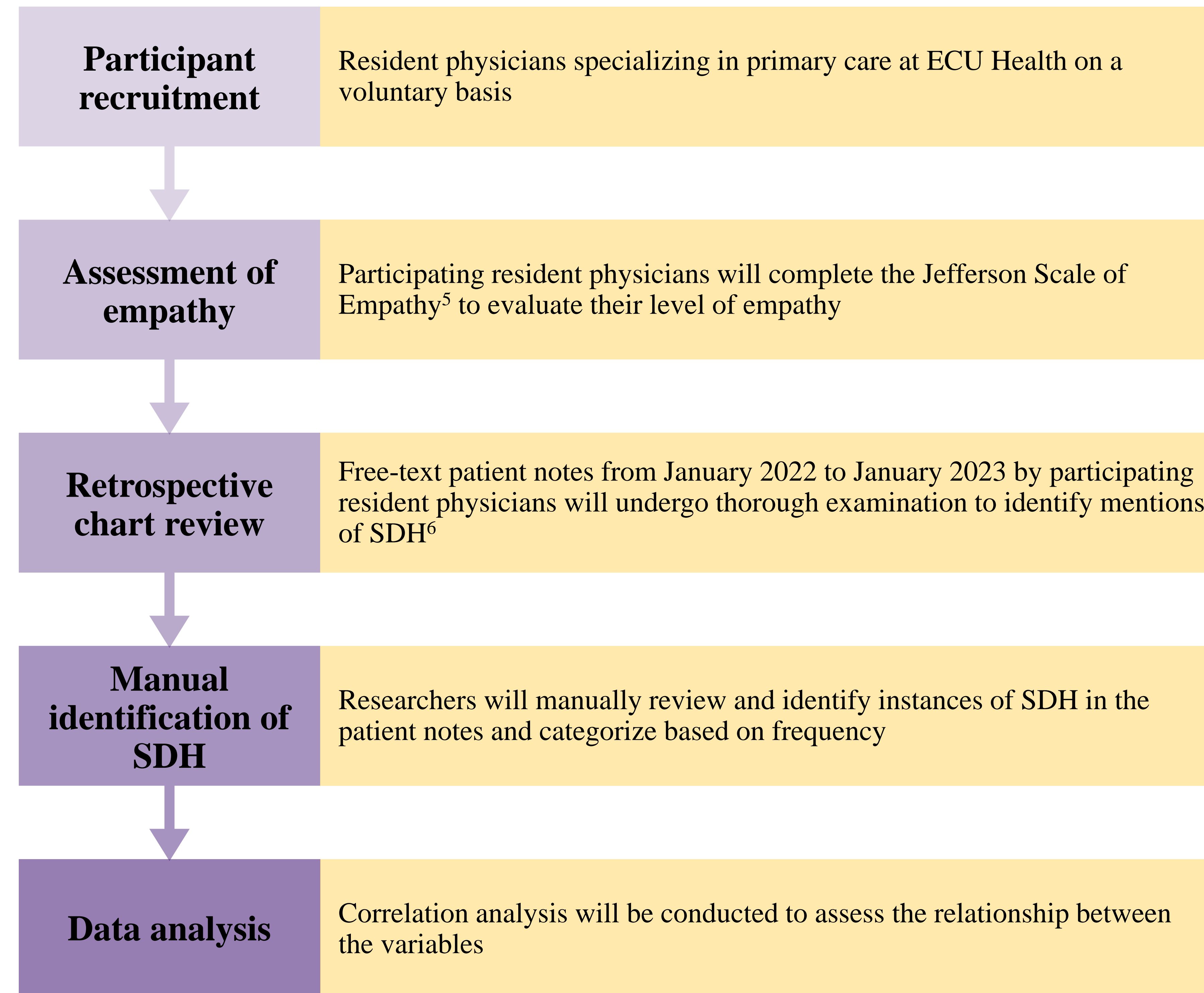
Determining the link between empathy and documentation of SDH could positively affect patient-centered care

Improving communication, informed decision-making, and resource allocation benefits patients, physicians, administrators, educators, and the wider community

Strengthening patient-provider relationships, refining healthcare practices, and contribute to community well-being⁴

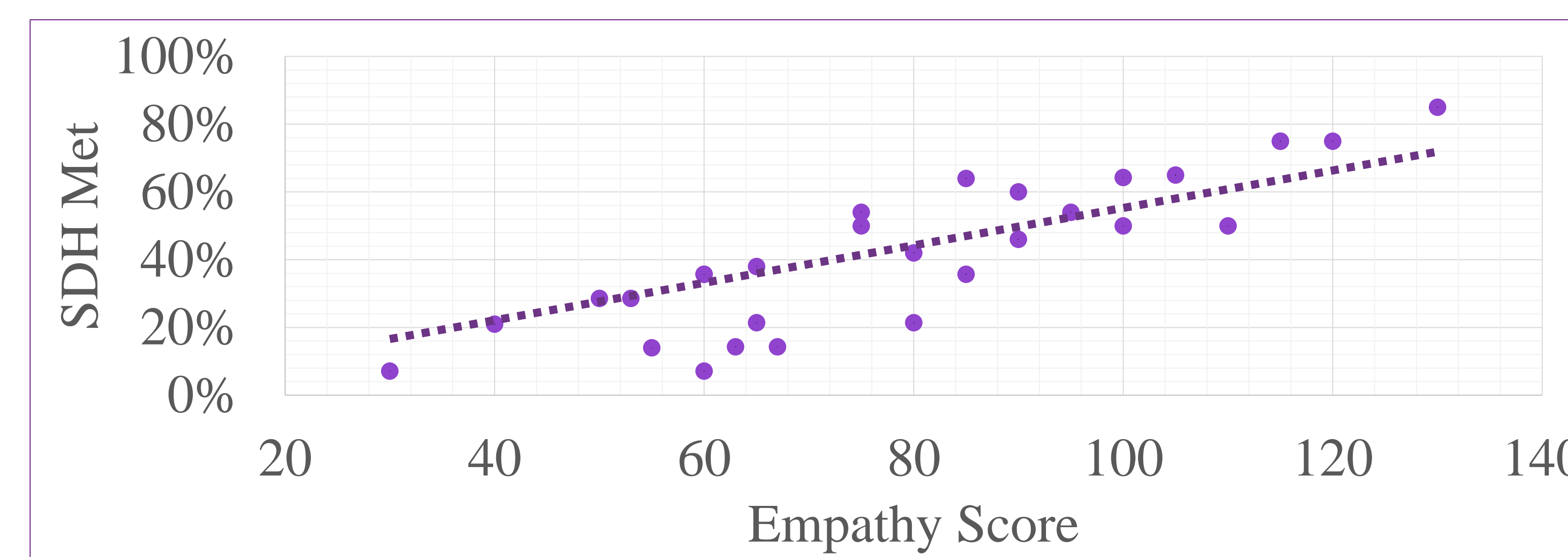


METHODS



EVALUATION PLAN

- The analysis will explore the correlation between empathy scores and the occurrence of SDH
- Statistical methods including Spearman correlation and Poisson regression with cluster robust standard errors will be used
- A positive coefficient in the Poisson regression model will indicate a significant positive association between empathy scores and the occurrence of SDH
- We hypothesize there will be a positive correlation, with some potential outliers, between physician empathy and the documentation of SDH as exemplified in the below theoretical data



POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Patient

- Increased communication and trust
- Individualized interventions
- Improved health outcomes

Provider

- Informed clinical decisions based on SDH
- Enhanced ability to address SDH
- Empathy and SDH awareness

Hospital Administration

- Strategic resource allocation
- Targeted interventions
- Improved efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare delivery

Medical Education

- Integration of empathy training into pre-clinical schooling
- Emphasis on SDH awareness in medical curricula
- Equipping future healthcare professionals with skills to address SDH

Community-Wide

- Reduce health disparities
- Enhanced overall health outcomes in the wider community
- Improved well-being and equity in healthcare

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