

## INTRODUCTION

- Food insecurity (FI) is the lack of sufficient food for an active, healthy life; with the potential to impact health starting early in life
- An estimated 588,240 people live in food-insecure households in Eastern North Carolina.

## AIM

To achieve 95% screening for FI amongst the families of neonates admitted to the Maynard Children's Hospital NICU within 6 months.

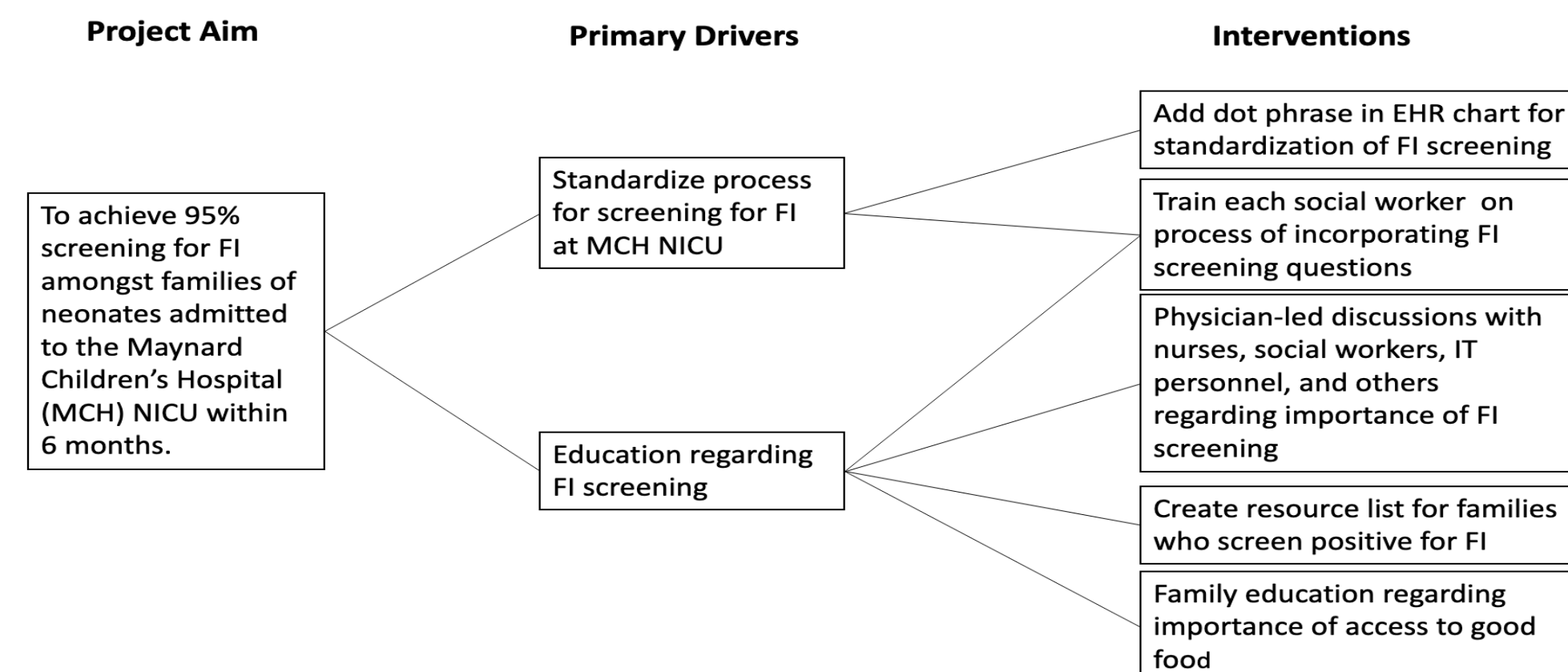
## METHODS

- A multi-disciplinary team was formed
- A 2-question FI screening tool, recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, was added to the family social work interview on admission
- Intervention was carried out over 6 months with monitoring for a further 3 months

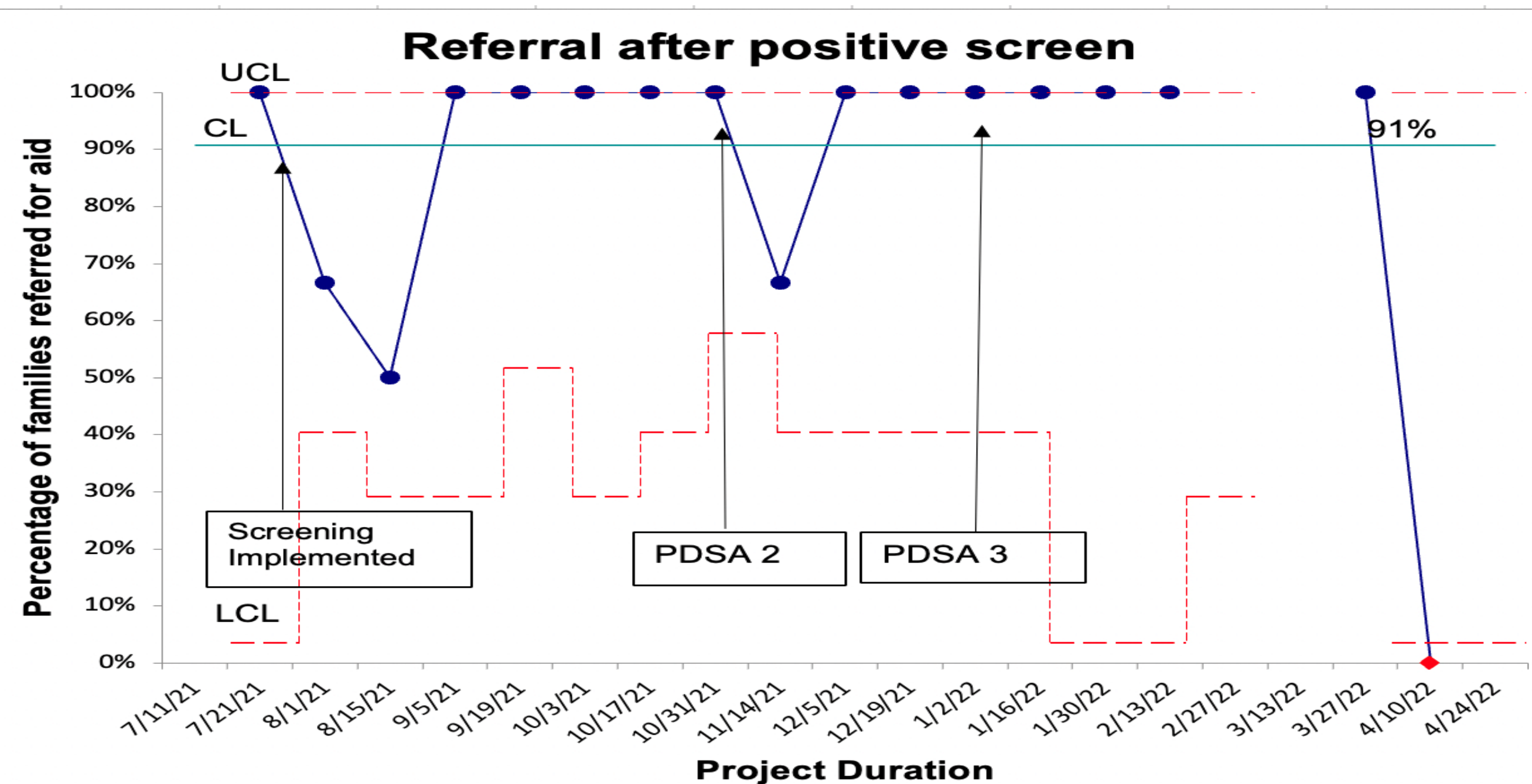
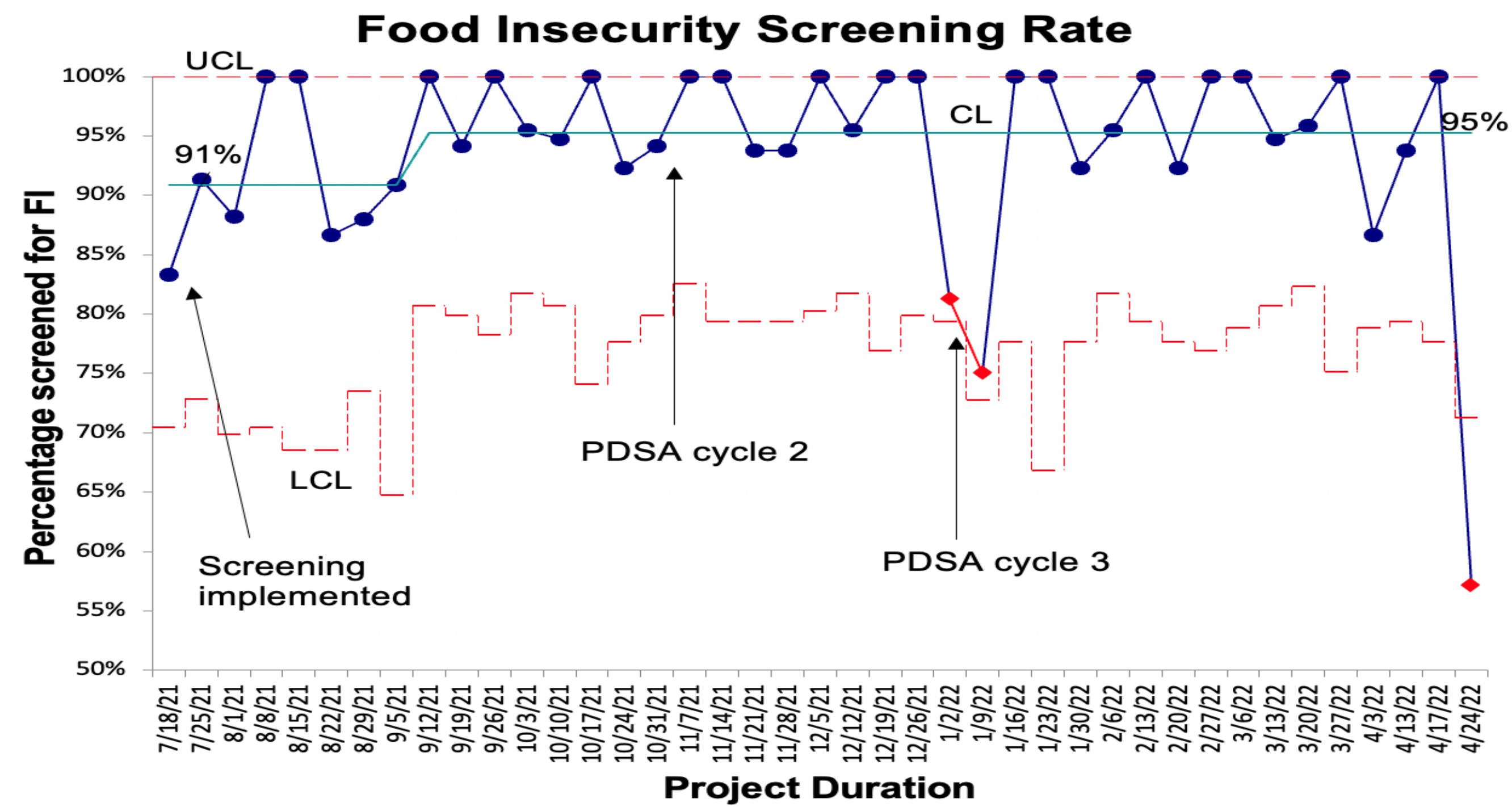
### Measures

- **Process Measure**
  - Percentage of families in the NICU screened for FI.
- **Outcome measure**
  - Percentage of families connected to resources after a positive screen for FI

## KEY DRIVER DIAGRAM



## RESULTS



## PDSA CYCLES

PDSA 1	Social workers trained Two-question screening implemented Dot phrase added to EHR
PDSA 2	Train cross-covering social workers on incorporating screening
PDSA 3	Include language to inform families of screening rationale and assure families of the lack of adverse outcomes following a positive screen

## DISCUSSION

- We achieved our FI screening rate goal of 95%
- Identified 6.75% FI rate in NICU families and connected 91% to community resources for assistance
- QI Project is proving sustainable as social work intake interviews continue despite monitoring period ending
- Four social workers surveyed reported FI screening questions added less than 5 min to interview
- However, compiling a packet of resources for positive screen added 15 to 30 min to workflow
- This QI project is reproducible and may be adapted for other NICU settings to improve FI screening

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## Publication

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