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Increasing the Use of Pediatric Developmental Screening Assessments at the Neighborhood Health Center of Lehigh Valley

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Background

- The focus is Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and developmental delay screening in children
- The screening questionnaires recommended by the AAP are the MCHAT-R and ASQs
- The Lehigh Valley Neighborhood Health Center (NHC-LV) uses the MCHAT-R irregularly, and does not use the ASQs
- Increasing screening should hopefully lead to increased early intervention and treatment for ASD and developmental delays for NHC-LV's pediatric patients

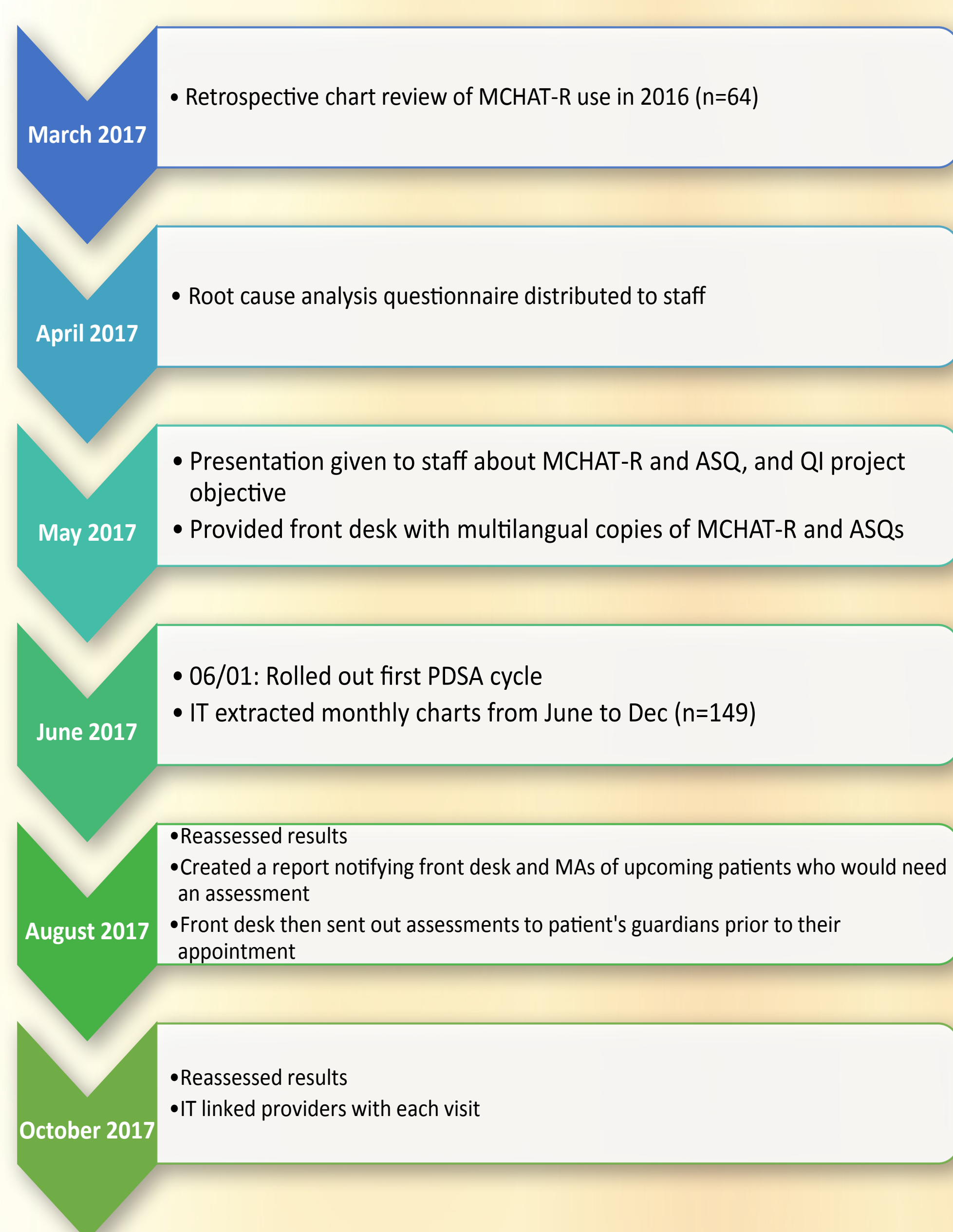
Problem Statement

We hope to improve overall screening percentage of ASD and developmental delays in pediatric populations at the NHC-LV by increasing the use of the MCHAT-R to a 50% goal and implementing the ASQ and reaching at least at 30% use at well child visits.

Methods

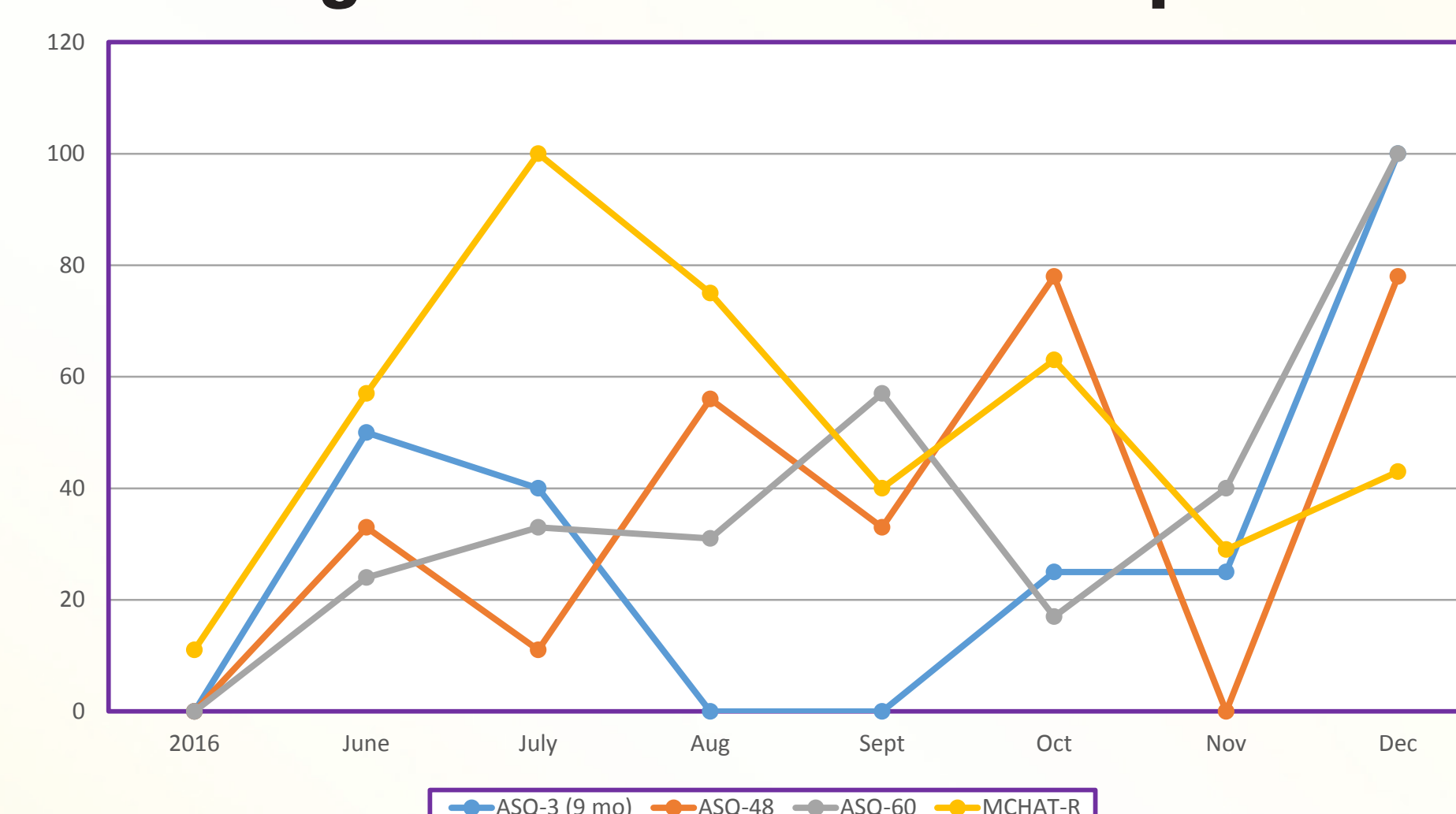
Inclusion criteria: Well-child visits between 8-66 months old; Allentown location

Exclusion criteria: Same day and follow up visits; Patients with prior ASD or developmental delay diagnoses; Bethlehem and Easton NHC's



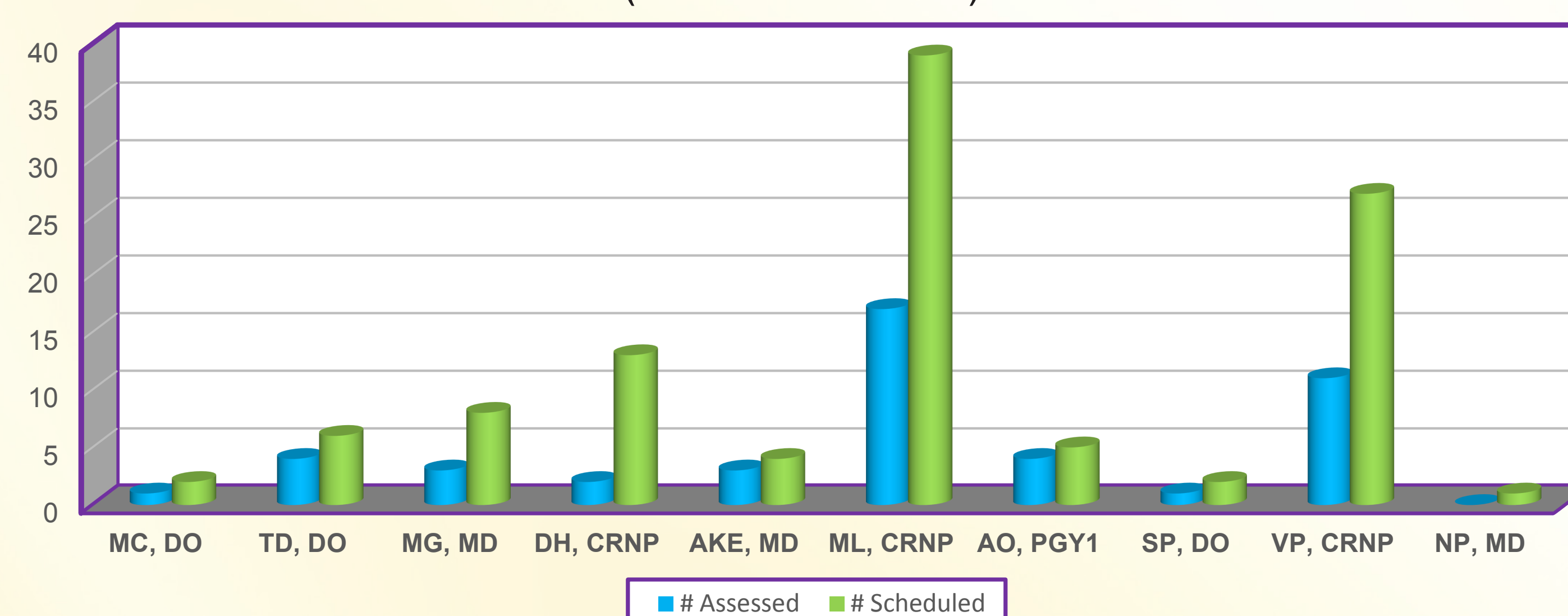
Results

Percentage Use of Assessments per Month



Screening percentages for each questionnaire type by month. There was an inconsistent usage pattern from month to month. Overall average for the year was 37% (ASQ3), 39% (ASQ48), 37% (ASQ 60), 63% (MCHAT-R).

Pediatric Patients each Provider Screened / Total Scheduled (June - Dec 2017)



Comparing use of questionnaire between providers. This graph demonstrates the disproportionate distribution of pediatric patients between each provider and how that affected their overall percentage.

Discussion/Conclusion

- Overall improvement in screening use in 2017 by 42%.
- ASQs were new for the center, only available in English, and had more questions
- CRNPs have a heavier pediatric load
- Funding was a barrier, so we could not have access to ASQs in other languages nor provide monetary incentives to well-performing providers
- The varying monthly percentages show the importance of reminders and adjusting changes as the project progresses.
- Targeting the multiple levels of health systems a patient interacted with, from front desk to provider, had the most positive effect.
- A follow up to this project would be a long-term prospective analysis on whether the increased screening lead to improved developmental delay management.



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