

Piloting a Social Needs Screener in a Pediatric Clinic

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Piloting a Social Needs Screener in a Pediatric Clinic

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BACKGROUND / INTRODUCTION

The healthcare system is beginning to recognize the need for assessing and addressing social factors that affect and influence the health of patients^{1,2,3}. Poverty-related impacts on child health and well-being are increasingly encountered in the pediatric clinical setting⁴. The social determinants of health that a family faces have an especially powerful impact on children, negatively affecting children's long term development. Research shows that children exposed to adverse experiences during childhood are more likely to develop detrimental stress responses and cognitive delays⁴. For example, food insecurity has been connected to higher risk of chronic conditions and poor mental and physical health⁵. Families experience a broad range of needs, including transportation, access to food, homelessness, and social support that all have aggregate effects on health, particularly when experienced chronically over time.

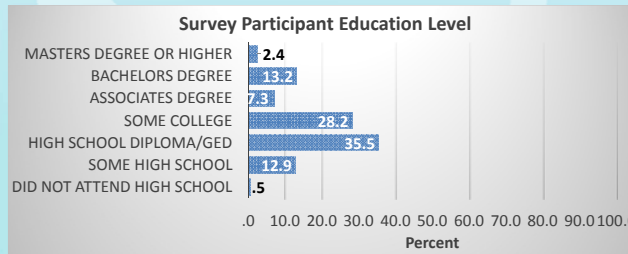
2 Research Aims:

- Pilot a tool to assess patients for social determinants of health to begin to understand of the prevalence of social needs
- Conduct a baseline assessment of the social needs at LVHN's Children's Clinic at 17th St. to guide improvements in clinical care

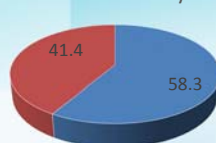
METHODS



RESULTS



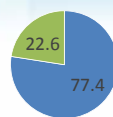
Food Insecurity



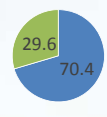
Percent of Families receiving WIC Services— 68.3%

Percent of Families receiving SNAP — 42.6%

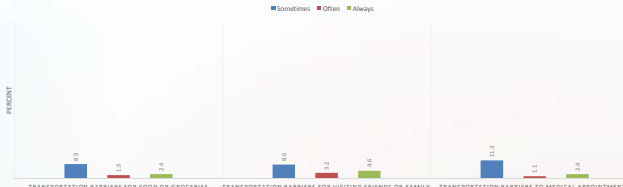
Difficulty Paying Mortgage



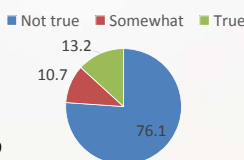
Difficulty Paying Utilities



TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS



Children Needing Special Education Services



N = 159

DICUSSION & CONCLUSION

Discussion

- Success of the pilot – having dedicated staff to complete the survey with participants largely aided in the success of getting over 300 patients to complete the survey
- Assessing social needs in the healthcare setting provides health providers with more information about the patient, creating a more holistic picture of the needs of the child and family outside of just medical care
- Providing better health care is a component of the Triple Aim of LVHN
- The families surveyed in the Children's Clinic demonstrated substantial levels of need across the social needs categories assessed in this pilot project.
- Food insecurity was very common among the families surveyed.

Limitations

- Non-English speaking families were not surveyed
- Limited population assessed
- Challenges in implementing a survey efficiently in a busy community clinic

Conclusions and Implications

- Once a baseline understanding of needs is established, services to connect families to available resources that meet those needs have to be developed in order to address the social determinants of health
- Next steps would be to repeat the survey in other clinical settings in order to gain a broader understanding of the social needs of patients within LVHN

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