Navigator-led Social Determinants of Health Screening in Community-based Asthma Programs

BACKGROUND

- Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) needs impact asthma and influence health disparities in asthma.
- Screening methodologies utilizing validated SDOH screeners vary to identify SDOH needs in pediatric populations.
- We conducted a qualitative study to identify and evaluate best methods for SDOH need identification in children enrolled in our school-based asthma program (SBAP) and home-visit asthma program (HVAP).
- Hypotheses: Navigator-led screening increases positive SDOH screenings. Navigator-led screenings yield robust SDOH findings not limited to a standardized screener.

METHODS

- We conducted key-informant interviews with eight asthma navigators from a SBAP and HVAP which enrolls children with poorly controlled asthma, from low-resourced families.
- Asthma navigators utilize our hospital-based SDOH screener for routine SDOH screening.
- Interviews were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. Data was evaluated to develop codes and identify themes. We evaluated themes concerning strengths of navigator led SDOH screening, challenges of navigator led SDOH screening, and key factors impacting trust between asthma navigators and caregivers.

RESULTS

- Coding of the key informant interviews yielded major themes summarized in Figures 1-3. Strengths of navigator led SDOH screening (Figure 1) were identified and found to directly address recognized challenges in traditional SDOH screening (Figure 2). Interview findings were summarized to highlight the infrastructure needed to successfully support Navigator-led SDOH Screening (Figure 3).

Figure 1: Strengths of Navigator-Led SDOH Screening

- **TIME SPENT ON SCREENER:**
  - “Depending on the problem or on what they’re needing... I have spoken with families sometimes for even five hours on the phone”
- **CULTURAL ADAPTATIONS:**
  - “A screener might ask a question, but in the language that you’re translating it, it’s not really the question that you’re actually asking.”
  - “A big determinant of success of kids in the world is their family结构. So perhaps we don’t have enough questions on that family unit and what that looks like and the surrounding support system”
- **IDENTIFY SDOH OUTSIDE OF THE SCREENER:**
  - “A lot of the times I think barriers could just be identified if we really heard what they were saying... I think sometimes it’s easier to just move on right through and standardize things. But not every family is the same”
- **TRUST/RELATIONSHIP BUILDING & REDUCTION OF SHAME:**
  - “…I feel like it’s almost like a show of maybe you feel ashamed about this so I’m just going to slide this piece of paper across the table to you, because it needs to be a secret...so many people don’t have advocates and a piece of paper’s not an advocate.”
  - “…it’s really, really important that you build a trust with these families...sharing [stories]”

Figure 2: Challenges in SDOH Screening

- **POOR CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT**
  - “…going through question, through question, through question, the parents were losing interest”
  - “…it also plays a lot into how much our healthcare system has failed them in the past to where they’re closed off to potentially having anybody else spill out their problems...if you’re not going to be able to do anything to change it?”
  - “I’ve seen that many of them hide behind the shadows because of different situations, but I see this program is here to help them.”

- **GAPS IN STANDARDIZED SCREENERS**
  - “When we were given this form it was just...Yeah, checkbox A, B, C...”
  - “...and it’s really important that you build a trust with these families...sharing [stories]”

CONCLUSIONS

- Navigator-led SDOH screening in the context of community-based asthma programs fosters relationship building and trust between caregivers and navigators.
  - A trusted relationship between caregivers and navigators allows relevant information beyond the current SDOH screener to be disclosed.
- Interviews revealed pivotal supplemental SDOH needs surrounding family functioning and social support to be considered as additions to SDOH screening in the future.
- Navigator-led screening is resource intensive requiring a multi-disciplinary team and strong community partnerships.

DISCLOSURES

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