OBJECTIVES

- Identify the current usage of the screening tool for housing insecurity
- Increase the usage and identification of housing insecure patients by 50% at the end of the calendar year
- Implement a comprehensive screening tool to identify pregnant patients with housing insecurity.

BACkground

American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) recommends screening for social determinants of health (SDOH), including housing. SDOH can impact mother/baby health outcomes at the individual and population level.

The primary purpose of this project is to implement a standard of practice that improves screening for housing insecurity in pregnant populations and improve clinical and administrative resources for patients.

OUTCOMES

PREINTERVENTION

- Number of Patients
  - Week 1: 2 patients
  - Week 2: 2 patients
  - Week 3: 2 patients
  - Week 4: 2 patients

INTERVENTION

- 10 question screening tool from ACOG and Boston Health Leads Social Needs Toolkit
- Transient homelessness due to the pandemic
- GYN patients with complex social issues

POSTINTERVENTION

- 1 month intervention: March to April
- Identified 1 patient with housing needs
- Themes that Emerged:
  - Comprehensive self identification
  - Emergent intervention vs. stable housing insecurity identified before appointment with clinical staff (physicians, residents, midwives)

DISCUSSION

There are unique housing needs presented in the high-risk obstetric clinic population. The clinical staff's referrals to the clinical social worker captured the patients who needed the services the most. However, over one month, the paper screening tool yielded fewer but more comprehensive results necessary to impact clinical practice in the clinic. Although the social worker was able to capture the need, there were difficulties in permanent housing placement. The next steps of the project include the utilization of the new screening tool over an extended period and implementing standardized ways to capture patients with housing needs. Other next steps include addressing and increasing resources for emergency shelters for pregnant women and women facing complex social issues such as IPV, rape etc. Also, increase diverse housing options for women as well as funding to the established housing authorities for long term stays especially for mothers and babies. Identifying housing insecurity is one step but eradicating housing insecurity is the goal.

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