Encounters after loss to cardiology follow-up among patients with congenital heart disease
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INTRODUCTION
- Nearly 1% of all children in the United States are born with a congenital heart defect (CHD)1
- Due to advancements in the medical field, 69% of patients with critical CHD (requiring intervention before age 1) now survive into adulthood2
- Regular long-term follow-up with cardiology vastly improves health outcomes3-6
- Maintaining follow-up adherence as patients age is difficult

OBJECTIVE
- To determine how frequently patients with CHD who have been lost to cardiology follow-up continued receiving care within the broader health system at inpatient, ED, or outpatient settings

MATERIALS & METHODS
- We are collecting data from patients with CHD who had at least one visit at the ECU pediatric cardiology clinic from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2019
- Loss to follow-up was defined as not being seen for at least 6 months past the most recent recommended follow-up date
- Among patients lost to follow-up, we will examine attendance at any other encounter within the same health system until 31 December 2020

DISCUSSION
- We are screening patients charts for eligibility and will be collecting outcome data in the upcoming semester

NEXT STEPS
- With this analysis we hope to demonstrate the areas within the broader health system in which CHD patients could be identified and re-enrolled in care with cardiology
- These data will provide context for future interventions needed to improve follow-up rates among patients requiring lifelong cardiology care

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REFERENCES