



Schools, Jobs, Housing and More: Tackling the Social Determinants of Health

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Name of project or collaborative

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) Community and Population Health Initiative

Geography

Hamilton County, Ohio

Brief description

Our focus is on improving the health of children living within our home county, seeking to tackle the most prevalent, challenging, and burdensome health issues our patients and families face. There are nearly 200,000 children living within the county. Although the Initiative is focused on the health in general of the population, there is a special focus on asthma, preterm birth (and infant mortality), injury, obesity, and early childhood development, conditions highly sensitive to the social and environmental context. The Initiative draws on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) Triple Aim framework – improving population health and experience of care at a reduced cost. Strategies have included bringing screening and acting on the social determinants into routine care processes while also engaging and collaborating with key community partners. These partnerships are with individuals and agencies that are well-poised to facilitate front line interventions, especially around the social determinants of health. Within the medical field, partners have included pediatricians, obstetricians, hospital administrators, quality improvement consultants, and epidemiologists. Additional in-community partners have included schools, legal aid attorneys, food banks, housing inspectors, geographers, and urban planners. The Initiative was launched in 2010 following release of the CCHMC 2015 strategic plan.

Relevance of project to this breakout session

Reducing the negative (and highlighting the positive) impact of the social determinants on health outcomes is critical to achieving population health. Schools, jobs, housing, and other key social, environmental, and economic sectors contribute greatly to a child's health and to their overall trajectory.

Results/outcomes

To date, we have seen a reduction in asthma admissions, improved social and environmental risk screening during both inpatient and outpatient care, and substantial increases in connections between families and key resources in the community. We have also trained hundreds of hospital and community staff in the importance of screening and acting on the social determinants of health and on quality improvement methods.

Funding

Support comes from CCHMC itself and a variety of federal funding agencies and foundations.

Contact

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