

Screening and Referring for Food Insecurity in a Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

Outpatient Clinic

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HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING HOSPITAL

Social Determinants of Health

"...the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age...shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources... The social determinants of health are mostly responsible for health inequities."¹

•**Screening** for social determinants of health (SDOH) has become a vital part of providing quality and effective healthcare

Food Insecurity

"...the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or the limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways."²

In the United States (2016)³

- 12.3% of all households were food insecure
- 16.5% of all households with children were food insecure

In Massachusetts (2015)⁴

- 10.3% of people were food insecure
- 13.5% of all children were food insecure

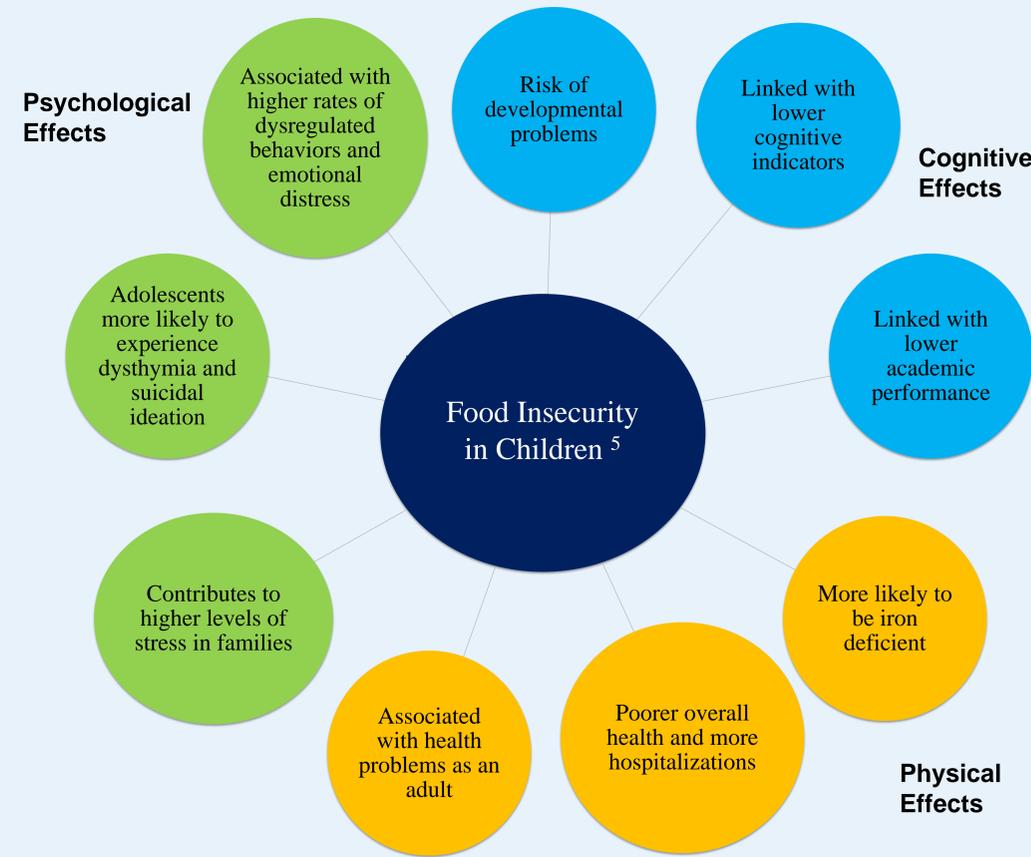
At Cambridge Health Alliance Primary Care Sites

- 24 – 50% of households were food insecure (per preliminary pilot data)

Project Bread

"...we work to break the cycle of hunger and poverty by devising, funding, advocating for, and facilitating solutions that change lives..."

Founded in 1969, Project Bread has years of experience in tackling the problem of food insecurity in the state of Massachusetts.

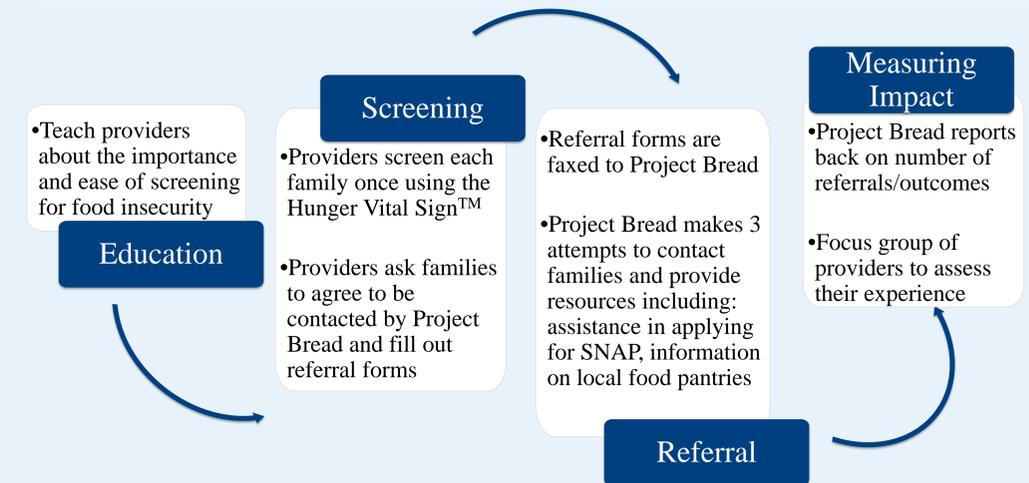


The Hunger Vital Sign™

- 1) **“ Within the past 12 months, we worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.”**
- 2) **“ Within the past 12 months, the food we bought just didn't last, and we didn't have money to get more.”**

- 2-question validated screen that demonstrates 97% sensitivity & 83% specificity for food insecurity⁶
- Endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics

Process for the Initiative



Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA)

- Network of safety net hospitals and community health care centers in the greater Boston, MA area

- As a requirement of the new MassHealth Accountable Care Organization contract, CHA is rolling out screening for SDOH

Why Child & Adolescent Psychiatry?

- More than 70% of patients in CHA's Child & Adolescent Psychiatry outpatient department have Medicaid/public health insurance
- Mental health professionals should ask about social determinants of health as part of a thorough biopsychosocial assessment
- Even if a provider asks about SDOH, he/she may not know how to connect families with resources

References

- 1) World Health Organization. Accessed Oct 17, 2017. http://www.who.int/social_determinants/sdh_definition/en/
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- 3) USDA, ERS. Accessed October 15, 2017. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics.aspx>
- 4) Feeding America. Accessed Oct 17, 2017. <http://www.feedingamerica.org/research/map-the-meal-gap/data-by-county-in-each-state.html>
- 5) FRAC & AAP. Feb 2017. Accessed Oct 17, 2017. <http://www.frac.org/wp-content/uploads/frac-aap-toolkit.pdf>
- 6) Hager, ER, et al. "Development and validity of a 2-item screen to identify families at risk for food insecurity." *Pediatrics* 126.1 (2010):e26-e32.