



We have no conflicts of interest to disclose

Low Family Resilience and Parental Aggravation Predict Forgone Needed Health Care

Kammarauche Asuzu, M.D., M.H.S., Dorothy Stubbe, M.D.

Yale Child Study Center

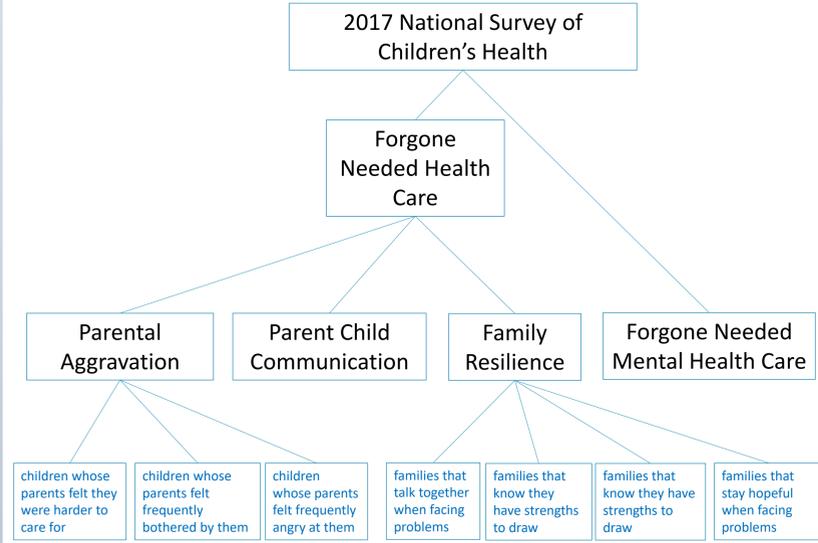
Background

- 4.7 million US children have unmet health care needs.
- 80% of US children who need mental health services fail to receive needed services.
- Indicators of poor family function have been associated with poor physical and mental health.

Objective

- The goal of this study was to investigate if indicators of family functioning (family resilience, parental aggravation and parent child communication) were associated with forgoing needed health care.

Methods



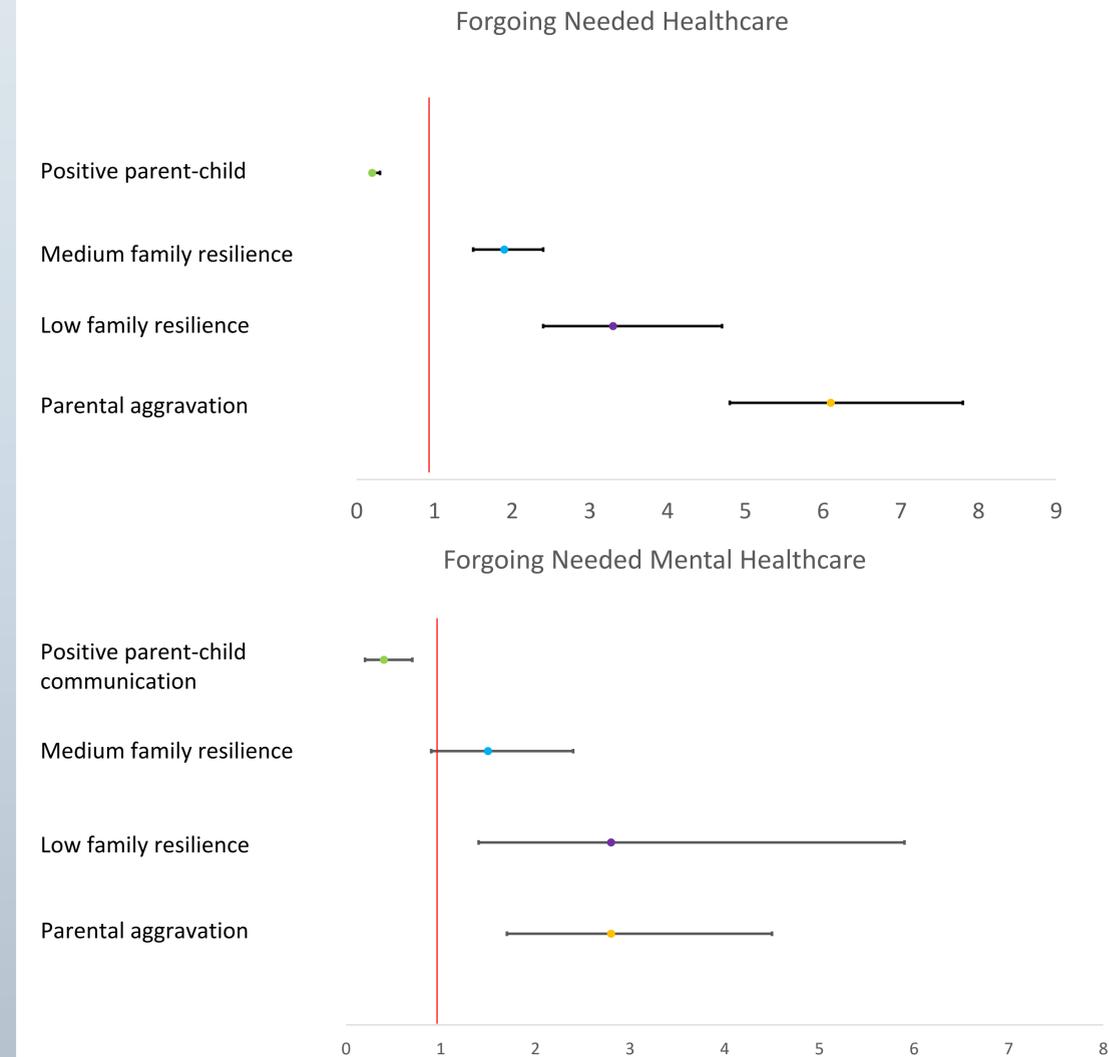
- Adjusted for: age of the child, sex of the child, race, adult education, financial status, work status of the adult caregiver, health insurance coverage including mental/behavioral health coverage.



Results

Characteristics	Children and Adolescents Who Received Needed Healthcare	Children and Adolescents Who Did Not Receive Needed Healthcare	p
Total (N=20,167)	19,728	439	
Age in years: Mean (SD)	9 (5)	11 (5)	0.00
Sex			0.61
1. Female	9,637 (49%)	209 (48%)	
2. Male	10,091 (51%)	230 (52%)	
Race			0.00
1. Hispanic	2,816 (11%)	70 (16%)	
2. Non-Hispanic Black	1,109 (6%)	36 (8%)	
3. Non-Hispanic White	13,849 (70%)	277 (63%)	
4. Non-Hispanic Other	2,584 (13%)	56 (13%)	
Education			0.00
1. Less Than High School	315 (2%)	12 (3%)	
2. High School or GED	2,223 (11%)	72 (16%)	
3. Some College or Technical School	4,450 (22%)	157 (36%)	
4. College Degree or Higher	12,740 (65%)	198 (45%)	
Adult Job Status			0.00
1. Regular paid job	18,965 (96%)	399 (91%)	
2. No job	763 (4%)	40 (9%)	
Financial Status			0.00
1. 0-199% FPL	5674 (27%)	255 (51%)	
2. 200%-299% FPL	3277 (16%)	95 (19%)	
3. 300%-399% FPL	3091 (15%)	69 (14%)	
4. 400% FPL or greater	8974 (43%)	86 (17%)	
Current Health Insurance			0.00
1. Has current health insurance	19,052 (97%)	368 (84%)	
2. No current health insurance	676 (3%)	71 (16%)	
Current Mental/Behavioral Health Coverage (N=20,071)			0.00
1. Has some coverage	3,026 (15%)	173 (40%)	
2. Has no coverage	373 (2%)	37 (8%)	
3. Has no health insurance	602 (3%)	71 (16%)	
4. No need of mental health services	15,633 (80%)	156 (36%)	

Results



Summary of Findings

- Having an older child, being a minority, having less than a college education, caregiver joblessness, poverty and lack of adequate insurance coverage were associated with forgoing health care.
- Children and adolescents were more likely to forgo overall health and mental healthcare if :
 - Their parents felt frequently aggravated or the family was characterized by low family resilience.
- Children and adolescents who talked about issues that mattered with their parents were significantly less likely to forgo needed health and mental health care.

Recommendations

- In addition to addressing identified barriers to seeking health care such as insurance coverage, access to providers, there is a need to think critically about family functioning factors that are associated with forgoing care and the pathways by which these factors lead to forgoing needed health care.
- Programs that address these family functioning factors may increase likelihood of engaging in care.
- Providers should assess for barriers to care at the family level during routine visits.