



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Master of Public Health Program

TENTH ANNUAL GRADUATE FORUM



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020

Table of Contents

Randy Abilmona	3
Megan Boone	4
Jennah Charniak	5
Claire Donahue	6
Lauren Draftz	7
Eleanor Duren	8
Selena Evora	9
Molly Franklin	10
Molly Fuchs	11
Esperanza García	12
Emma Gier	13
Edina Hodzic	14
Loyala Kanwal	15
Huma Khan	16
Eloisa Lopez	17
Rachel McCann	18
Elijah Ogunkoya	19
John Patlovich	20
Ashley Posey	21
Bivek Shrestha	22
Susana Shrestha	23
Britney Smart	24
Muthana Sweis	25
Moranda Tate	26

**Advocate Lutheran General Hospital: Transition Support
Program**
Access to Health Insurance

Practicum Site: Advocate Aurora Health – Advocate Lutheran
General Hospital, Transition Support Program

Randy Abilmona

Introduction. Health insurance is essential for the ability to obtain access to medical resources for any type of healthcare need. Even though insurance is a necessity to cover healthcare costs and obtain access to these resources, there are people with healthcare needs that lack health insurance. Therefore, many people without insurance rely on emergency center visits in hospitals in order to obtain some form of care since they cannot afford conventional healthcare access. **Approach.** Qualitative interviews with patients in emergency care to determine if a lack of health insurance is the reason for their hospital visit, followed by assistance in receiving Medicaid insurance in order to receive healthcare coverage regardless of ability to pay. **Outcomes.** Of the 30 patients interviewed for this project, 28 revealed that they were in emergency care due to a lack of health insurance. Afterward, 25 of these patients are now Medicaid pending or Medicaid enrolled. **Conclusion.** The development of this project was to address medical insurance as a social determinant of health and create intervention to assist patients in receiving healthcare coverage regardless of ability to pay.

Addressing Food Insecurity in Chicago with a Hospital-Based Food Pantry Program

Practicum Site: Advocate Aurora Health – Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Community Health Department

Megan Boone

Introduction. Accessing healthy foods tends to come at a high price. Being food insecure can be defined as an individual having limited access to nutritious foods, forcing them to turn to unhealthy foods. Eating these unhealthy foods often leads to chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and more. Specifically, in Illinois Masonic Medical Center’s primary service area (PSA), there are higher rates of food insecurity and chronic disease compared to the rest of the state of Illinois. **Approach.** The food pantry and fresh produce program at Illinois Masonic was created to give patients that are in active treatment access to non-perishable food items and fresh produce to ultimately lower the prevalence of food insecurity and chronic disease in the community’s primary service area. **Outcomes.** Since being implemented, the program reached 64 patients (14 repeat patients) that have screened positive for food insecurity. The program has also expanded to several new service lines within the hospital to reach more patients and developed new resources to make the program sustainable for when patients stop receiving active treatment. **Conclusion.** Through post survey findings, the program has been valuable for patients in providing them better access to healthy foods and connecting them to external community-based resources.

The Development and Implementation of a Multimodal Pain Management Clinical Pathway

Practicum Site: University of Chicago Medical Center – Quality Performance Improvement Department

Jennah Charniak

Introduction. If undertreated pain remains a global health catastrophe, the opioid crisis will continue to negatively impact millions of lives each year. Pain and pain treatment are complex public health issues that are positively correlated with opioid misuse and the prevalent comorbidities throughout the University of Chicago Medicine community. Multimodal pain management is an effective approach that mitigates negative side effects for optimal health outcomes. However, most providers lack knowledge about the multimodal approach and at UCM variability exists in the management of acute pain and opioid prescribing. **Approach.** In adherence to organizational standards, best practices of multimodal pain management were identified by a group of multidisciplinary stakeholders who specialize in pain. Best practices were transcribed into a process map, built within clinical pathway software, and integrated into Epic for prescriber use. **Outcome.** The outcome of this project is one multimodal pain management clinical pathway and its integration into the electronic health record system, Epic. The pathway has six steps comprised of consensus-based recommendations for the most appropriate pain treatment methods in an adaptable and feasible format. **Conclusion.** The development and implementation of this pathway presents a promising approach to assure that providers receive the knowledge and support in treating their patients with the multimodal approach and improving the quality of life throughout the community.

**An Asset-Based Approach for HIV Positive Women within the
Women and Children’s HIV Program at the Ruth M.
Rothstein CORE Center**

Practicum Site: Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center

Claire Donahue

Introduction. For people living with HIV/AIDS, linkage to care is an essential step to achieving successful treatment. Linkage and retention in care can be affected by psychosocial, emotional, and structural barriers. The purpose of the project at the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center is to aid women in linking and engaging in consistent medical care, and to achieve and maintain viral load suppression using the Anti-Retroviral Treatment and Access to Services (ARTAS) model. The main project, a community asset inventory, was created as a supplementary tool that can be used within the ARTAS sessions and by the staff at CORE.

Approach. A community asset inventory was developed and implemented to be used as a supplementary tool for the overall project ARTAS sessions and the staff at CORE.

Outcomes. The creation and implementation of the community asset inventory will serve as one component of project outcomes. The community asset inventory has been disseminated to staff at CORE.

Conclusion. The development of the community asset inventory is a promising asset-based approach to provide patients and staff with health assets or community resources based upon patients’ needs. Furthermore, this approach may assist staff in mitigating barriers for women linking to HIV care.

Adolescent Health in Illinois: A County-Level Analysis

Practicum Site: Illinois Department of Public Health

Lauren Draftz

Introduction. Adolescence is a period of emotional, social, and physical growth. Adolescent health behaviors often establish patterns that continue into adult life. Combined with the relative lack of county-level adolescent health data in Illinois, this compilation of adolescent health indicators and outcomes was created. **Methodology.** Through a combination of literature review, data availability, and staff discussion a final set of 24 adolescent health indicators were selected. Data on each indicator for every county in Illinois was compiled, cleaned, and standardized. Standardized z-scores for each indicator were summed within counties to create a composite county health score. Counties were ranked by composite score and by relative performance in eight subcategories. **Results.** The top five performing counties included Monroe, Woodford, DuPage, Piatt, and Jersey. These counties share a higher than average median income when compared to the state overall. High performing counties were also overwhelmingly Caucasian. The lowest performing counties include Cook, Pulaski, Vermillion, Winnebago, and Alexander. These counties share average or below average incomes when compared to the state. Lower performing counties were more racially diverse when compared to higher performing counties. **Conclusion.** Race and wealth are likely associated with adolescent health outcomes at the county level. Further research at the county level is needed to examine this relationship.

Development of Emergency Preparedness Training Curriculum for Long-Term Care Facilities

Practicum Site: Chicago Department of Public Health – Bureau of Emergency Response and Public Health Preparedness

Eleanor Duren

Introduction. When public health emergencies strike, there is often a large disparity among the populations that are most drastically affected. One of the most vulnerable populations in a public health emergency is older adults. Long-term care facilities house a significant portion of this population and therefore it is critical that they are prepared for emergencies. **Approach.** Training curriculum was created that is intended for facility administrators and staff. The curriculum contains content about emergency preparedness basics. **Outcomes.** A PowerPoint presentation was created that contains all of the training information. Along with the training presentation, both an evaluation questionnaire and a pre/post-test were created to assess the effectiveness of the training curriculum. Additionally, an implementation guide was created to provide Chicago Department of Public Health employees with the information needed to continue the project. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak and response, the guide did not go through the full intended review process and has been submitted to the site in its current draft format. **Conclusion.** Including long-term care facilities in the discussion around emergency preparedness is essential to protecting this vulnerable population. The COVID-19 outbreak has showed how important emergency preparedness and response is. With the implementation of these trainings following the outbreak, the hope is that these facilities will be better prepared for the next public health emergency.

A Gardner's Responsibility: Comparative Analysis of Perceived Discrimination Amongst Mexican and Puerto Rican's Utilizing Translation Services

Practicum Site: Rush University – Department of Family Medicine

Selena Evora

Introduction. Environmental structures contribute to various social determinates of health and influence health-related outcomes in the form of institutionalized racism, personally mediated racism, and internalized racism **Methodology.** A univariate and bivariate chi-square analysis was conducted to measure the level of significance comparing the discrimination and use of a translator as well as other socioeconomic demographics that may influence perceived discrimination. **Results.** After conducting a univariate and bivariate analysis both Mexican and Puerto Rican participants perceived discrimination while attending a visit with their doctors ($p=.003, .000$). Overall Mexicans were more likely to perceive discrimination from an encounter at a doctor's visit than Puerto Ricans. When utilization translation services, Puerto Ricans were less likely to utilize translation services in comparison to Mexican respondents ($p=.017, .066$). **Conclusion.** Observing community investments that reflect the conditions of community assets can better address social barriers as well as foster partnerships with grassroots community organizations with larger public services to deliver comprehensive care for patients with limited English proficiency.

HIV Among MSM in Chicago

Practicum Site: Chicago Department of Public Health – Project
CHAT

Molly Franklin

Introduction. In Chicago, HIV transmission among men who have sex with men (MSM) accounts for the majority of new HIV diagnoses. This points to a health disparity that only continues to grow, as MSM experience increasing rates of infection while other transmission groups decrease. Understanding HIV behavioral trends is essential to slowing the spread of this disease, while serving the community that has carried the weight of the HIV/AIDS pandemic since it began. **Methodology.** Using data collected in 2017 from the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) program, a snapshot of the state of social and sexual health among MSM in Chicago was created. **Results.** Individuals who had disclosed their sexuality to their healthcare providers or to their female sex partners had higher rates of HIV testing in the past two years ($r(200) = .15, p = .03$, and $r(411) = .11, p = .02$, respectively) than participants who had not come out to those groups, or had only disclosed to family members or friends. **Conclusion.** It appears that additional research into social factors is needed to understand the expanding gap in HIV rates among MSM and other transmission groups.

Redefining Hospitals' Roles: Creating Implementation Plans to Address CHNA Findings

Practicum Site: Advocate Aurora Health – Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Community Health Department

Molly Fuchs

Introduction. The Affordable Care Act encourages nonprofit hospitals to go beyond disease management and consider the influence that social factors have on health outcomes. By understanding the root causes of their community's health needs and investing in programs that address those needs, hospitals can advance health equity. This capstone project involved the development of strategies to address social determinants of health, behavioral health, and healthy lifestyles for the Community Health Department at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center.

Approach. Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center utilized the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships framework to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment and produce Implementation Plans.

Outcomes. Implementation Plans were created for Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center that will be put into practice throughout the hospital's primary service area from January 2020 through December 2022. The Implementation Plans identify programming that addresses issues such as housing, community safety, behavioral health, obesity, and food insecurity. **Conclusion.** To effectively address community health needs, it is essential to understand the context in which health issues arise by recognizing the economic, social, behavioral, and environmental factors that lead to poor health outcomes. Interventions should be created using a health equity lens.

Standardizing a Condom Availability Program in a Large Urban Setting

Practicum Site: Chicago Department of Public Health

Esperanza García

Introduction. Youth and adolescents throughout Chicago have inadequate access to contraceptives which results in high rates of sexually transmitted infections. The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Chicago Public Schools (CPS) aim to implement a condom availability policy throughout the CPS district. This project involved the development of an implementation guide of best practices and recommendations to provide the district with universal practices.

Approach. A systematic review of literature and existing policies and procedures from other large urban areas similar to Chicago was conducted in addition to key informant interviews from public health professionals working in sexual health. **Outcomes.** The results of the systematic review demonstrated a need for a condom availability policy to provide and improve access to contraceptives to help promote healthy relationships and decrease rates of sexually transmitted infections. An implementation guide of best practices and recommendations was drafted and revised by staff to provide feedback and found the guide to be informative and appropriate. **Conclusion.** The development of the guide demonstrated to support CDPH and CPS to help them implement the condom availability policy in the district. Therefore, the guide will assist CDPH and CPS with the implementation of a condom availability policy in the district to help decrease sexually transmitted infections.

Father Perceptions of the Acceptability and Scalability of Fathers and Babies, a Pilot Program

Practicum Site: Northwestern University – Center for Community Health, Mothers and Babies

Emma Gier

Introduction. Perinatal depression among pregnant women and new moms has been extensively studied and is generally recognized as a challenge within communities. However, paternal perinatal depression has received little attention from researchers and practitioners leaving a notable gap. That said, emerging literature has identified paternal depression as a public health concern. The Fathers and Babies pilot program has been designed to address this gap. **Approach.** A key informant interview guide, verbal consent form, recruitment script and updated IRB protocol were written, approved and used to complete qualitative interviews with eight fathers who have participated in the Fathers and Babies program. A code book was created, and transcripts were coded and analyzed to assess the acceptability of the program in terms of delivery modality and content, facilitation of partner support, promotion of father mental health and stress management, and positive parenting practices. **Outcomes.** Fathers offered promising feedback in terms of enjoyability, understanding and engagement with the Fathers and Babies curriculum. Suggestions for improvement will be used to modify the curriculum for future participants. **Conclusion.** If modification and scaling of the Fathers and Babies pilot program are successful, this program could have profound impact for father mental health and communities at large.

Implementation of Health Education Addressing Bullying in Chicago Communities

Practicum Site: Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago – Healthy Communities

Edina Hodzic

Introduction. Bullying continues to be an issue affecting children and adolescents in Chicago, which can lead to absence from school, mental and emotional issues as well a financial burden to society. Promoting education regarding ways to minimize bullying rates, healthy management of emotions, and empathy is essential to address and decrease bullying behavior among the youth of Chicago. **Approach.** Developing educational materials included two interactive games. These games contained key health messages targeting elementary-school aged children and an infographic for parents or caretakers. **Outcomes.** A focus group of seven children aged 7-12 years was conducted after school hours to revise and finalize the educational materials. Participants found game one as not age-appropriate. Participants actively engaged and provided multiple suggestions for improvement of game two (design, interactivity, etc.) and thus, indicated understanding of the goal and content of the game. **Conclusion.** Age-appropriate and content tailored, interactive games can be an effective tool to deliver health messages among elementary school-aged children. Volunteer health educators could use these games during community events and health fairs.

A Cross-Sectional Study: To Compare the Likelihood of Cigarette and Vaping Status Amongst Homosexual, Bisexual and Heterosexual Females, and Association with Psychological Factors in the Communities of Chicago

Practicum Site: Chicago Department of Public Health –
Department of Epidemiology

Loyala Kanwal

Introduction. Cigarette smoking and vaping is an established risk factor for multiple health issues. Chicago Report on LGBT health in 2019, stated 35% of Lesbian and bisexual women were current smokers as compared to 13.3% of heterosexual women. This capstone examined the prevalence of cigarette and vaping among lesbian and bisexual women with respect to race and ethnicity. This study also examined the association between psychological distress and smoking. **Methodology.** This was a cross-sectional survey with a sample size of 13,941 randomly selected, adults aged 18 and older, conducted through the Healthy Chicago Survey from the year 2014 till 2018. The data was analyzed using robust Multi-Logistic regression models. **Results.** Results indicated that after controlling for race/ethnicity and psychological distress level, lesbian and bisexual females had higher odds of smoking cigarettes with p-value < 0.05, OR = 1.62 (95% CI: 1.21, 2.23) as compared to heterosexual females. The analysis of the final adjusted model for vaping showed that lesbians and bisexual females had higher odds of vaping with significant p-value < 0.05, OR = 1.73 (95% CI: 1.13, 2.91) than their heterosexual counterparts. Conclusion: Findings in this capstone provides evidence that lesbian and bisexual females have significantly higher cigarette smoking and vaping rates than their heterosexual peers.

Improving Heart Failure Education by Hiring Culturally Competent Lay Navigators to Decrease Readmission Rates at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

Practicum Site: Advocate Aurora Health – Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Transition Support Program

Huma Khan

Introduction. Culturally-competent heart health education offers a unique approach to promote cardiac awareness among heart failure (HF) patients. However, many heart health providers lack the cultural-competence and comfort level patients seek. This project involved the development of a proposal to enhance the current (HF) education protocol by hiring two culturally competent lay navigators and develop a refurbished HF education booklet to educate patients at discharge.

Approach. A project proposal was created to be approved by the board members of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital (ALGH). Three main deliverables were created to support the project including the project proposal, the 5-7-minute revamped HF education booklet suggestions, and a HF phone call follow-up survey. **Outcomes.** Two culturally competent lay navigators were hired and trained on administering HF education. We anticipate 1000 HF patients to partake in the HF education and complete the HF follow-up survey by December 2022. Results are noted once the data is recorded using the follow-up survey answers.

Conclusion. The development of the proposal presents a potential to address the communication gap between patients and providers. This project has potential to decrease 30-day HF readmission rates with a model that can be utilized at other healthcare facilities.

Findings of a Park-based Child Obesity Prevention Intervention

Practicum Site: Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children

Eloisa Lopez

Introduction. The child obesity rate in Chicago is higher compared to the state and national rate. Within Chicago, child obesity differs among the 77 community areas. The Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC) along with the Chicago Park District (CPD) implemented a park-based child obesity prevention intervention called CampWell. CampWell is part of an organization-level intervention, Chicago Activating Neighborhood Environments for Health and Wellness (Chicago ANEHW) addressing child obesity through comprehensive health education within a modified environment. This project reveals the findings of park-based intervention in three community areas. **Approach.** Data elements included camper surveys, the system for observing fitness instruction time (SOFIT) tool, and environmental checklists. Data was analyzed, interpreted, and disseminated for program context and potentially program improvement. **Outcomes.** Findings uncover disparities and similarities by community area for both 6-9-year old and 10-12-year old summer day campers. Results show inconsistencies among knowledge, attitude, and behavior compared to observed physical activity. **Conclusion.** The findings of this park-based child obesity prevention intervention imply the need for a culturally tailored park-based intervention to potentially reduce child obesity for all community areas. Furthermore, a mixed methods evaluation is fundamental to determine the value of a park-based intervention.

Predictors of HCV Status Among High Risk Women Who Exchange Money or Drugs for Sex

Practicum Site: Chicago Department of Public Health – Project CHAT

Rachel McCann

Introduction. It is believed that HIV and HCV incidence disproportionately affects the sex worker community for numerous reasons. These include high prevalence of intravenous drug use, high-risk sexual behaviors, and sex worker demographic composition.

Methodology. Chi-square and Pearson’s correlation analysis were used to examine correlations between HCV incidence and health behaviors. Significant correlations were extracted and used to conduct multiple logistic regression analyses that predicted HCV status based on respondent’s age, intravenous drug usage, income, number of sex partners, and condom usage.

Results. Multiple logistic regression analysis was used to model predictor HCV status based on injection drug use and sex worker age. Sex worker age and injection drug use were both significant predictors, $R^2=.16$, $F(1,373) = 36.59$, $p < .0001$ in HCV status. A second multiple logistic regression model concluded that average monthly income obtained from sex exchange was a significant predictor in HCV status, $(\chi^2(1) = 5.58, p < .00182)$.

Conclusion. Restructuring the notion of HCV as a baby boomer disease as well as policy changes implementing HCV testing guidelines, should work alongside harm reduction methods; ultimately benefitting the health and well-being of at-risk community members in numerous ways.

Gentrification association with Mental Health Outcome

Practicum Site: Sinai Urban Health Institute

Elijah Ogunkoya

Introduction. To examine the relationship between living in a gentrified census tracts and odds of being diagnosed with depression by a health professional or self-reporting depression symptoms. **Methodology.** Data is individual level data from Sinai Health Community Survey 2.0 that focuses on 10 Chicago west-side neighborhoods along with census tract data from the 2000 Decennial Census and 2011-2015 American Community Survey to identify gentrified census tracts. A total of 1543 adults are included separated by those living in not gentrified vs gentrified census tracts. The project calculated the odds of being diagnosed with depression by a health professional or self-reporting depression symptoms for individuals living in gentrified census tracts. **Results.** Gentrification is not significantly associated with being diagnosed with depression or self-reporting depression symptoms but residing in a gentrified census tract does negatively impact the mental health of adults without college attainment. Only a select group of residents were negatively impacted by living in gentrified tracts. **Conclusion.** Gentrification intensifies mental health outcomes for communities that were disproportion exposed to discrimination and health disparities.

Assessing the Impact of Social Emotional Learning in an After-School Program

Practicum Site: Gary Comer Youth Center

John Patlovich

Introduction. After School Programs (ASPs) offer a unique setting to conduct Social Emotional Learning (SEL) within youth programming. Unlike traditional academic settings, ASPs have more flexibility in the way SEL can be incorporated. This leaves room for creative approaches to SEL implementation but also room for a lack of oversight and management of an educational practice that is already often under-evaluated. To address that concern, this project consists of the development and deployment of a program evaluation plan focused on SEL within a Chicago based youth center providing after school programming. **Approach.** The development of the plan focused on ensuring actionable results were obtainable and that processes were established up-front, so that the results could directly lead to specific program improvements. **Outcomes.** Outlined through 8 different phases and taking place over the course of two school years, the project plan provides two different evaluation approaches, that assess both the inclusion and impact of SEL at the youth center. **Conclusion.** The development of this utilization-based evaluation plan should provide better insight on the role of SEL at the youth center, its impact on youth participants and serve as a sustainable solution for SEL oversight going forward.

The Evaluation of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago's School-aged Nutrition Education and Culinary Arts Program: Foodies

Practicum Site: The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago

Ashley Posey

Introduction. Nutrition education is widely used for the prevention of child and adolescent obesity. However, it has been noted that nutrition education alone is not enough to sustain long-lasting results. Foodies combines lecture with practice to teach students how to make healthy decisions. The purpose of this project is to evaluate the Foodies program for change in knowledge and skill acquisition. **Approach.** A fidelity observation was developed to ensure fidelity during curriculum instruction. A pre and post-survey was developed to examine knowledge and skill acquisition amongst students in the program. **Outcomes.** The pre and post-survey yielded the results anticipated. There was an increase in perceived ability to make healthy decisions surrounding food choice and food consumption. There was also a high percentage of students leaving the program with more knowledge and skills. **Conclusion.** A pre and post-test design supplemented with fidelity observations proved to be a successful method of evaluating a nutrition education program. These methods helped prove that the program was effective and should be replicated with sustainability.

Associations between Food Insecurity and Diabetes Status in the West Side Alive Project

Practicum Site: Rush University – Department of Preventive Medicine

Bivek Shrestha

Introduction. Food insecurity is an important aspect of social vulnerability that likely contributes to chronic illnesses, though additional research is needed. This study examined the association between food insecurity and diagnosed diabetes, undiagnosed diabetes, and pre-diabetes among participants from the WSA screening study. **Methodology.** A cross-sectional study was conducted for 944 participants from the WSA screening. SAS version 9.4 was used for the multinomial logistic regression analysis. **Results.** Of 944 participants, 188 self-reported that they had diabetes, 56 were identified with undiagnosed diabetes (no diabetes diagnosis but had $A1c > 6.5$), 378 had pre-diabetes ($A1c \geq 5.6 < 6.5$), and 322 participants didn't have diabetes. The association between food insecurity and diabetes status didn't show statistical significance, although the Odds Ratio was 1.28, 95% C.I. [0.83, 1.80] for diagnosed diabetes, 1.30 [0.69, 2.43] for undiagnosed diabetes, and 0.80 [0.58, 1.11] for pre-diabetes, compared to food insecure people without any sign of diabetes. **Conclusion.** A need for a longitudinal study to find the association between food insecurity and development diabetes, as this study was unable to establish a relationship between the exposure and outcome.

**Addressing Gaps in Access to Health Care using Sinai
Community Health Survey 2.0 data: An Initiative of Rush
University Department of Family Medicine, Chicago**

Practicum Site: Rush University – Department of Family
Medicine

Susana Shrestha

Introduction. Gap in access to health care is an important public health issue in the United States given the implications it has on population health outcomes and the nation's economy. This study explores the association between lack of health access due to cost and self-rated general health status among individuals residing in Chicago.

Methodology. Data from Sinai Community Health Survey 2.0 with 1543 participants were used for the analysis. The study design was cross-sectional in nature. A multivariate logistic regression model was built to test the association between the predictor, could not afford doctor's visit and the outcome, poor or fair self-rated general health status. **Results.** Results indicated that participants who could not afford doctors' visits due to cost had almost twice the odds of reporting poor or fair health compared to participants who reported they could afford it ($p < 0.0001$, OR = 1.9 (95% CI: 1.34, 2.71)). This association stayed robust with all other variables accounted for. **Conclusion.** Access to health care along with other socio-economic determinants play an important role in determining population health statuses. Future interventions should take affordability into account in order to achieve health equity and improve the quality of life for all.

Exploring Differences in Maternal Hypertension Care by Race/Ethnicity

Practicum Site: The Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative

Britney Smart

Introduction. The rate of maternal morbidity and mortality has steadily increased in the United States overtime. This capstone will look at the relationship between race/ethnicity and improvement in care and severe maternal morbidity as a result of the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative hypertension initiative. **Methodology.** The data analyzed was collected between June 2016 and December 2018 for 14,288 patients with hypertension at participating hospitals. Final models were the result of a multilevel regression that looked at process measure overtime when stratified by race. **Results.** Results indicate that most racial groups saw improvements in severe maternal morbidity (21% reduction) and all of the process measures, but the magnitude of improvements between groups differed. At the beginning of the initiative black women had the highest rate of maternal morbidity (16.40%) while we saw a 22.9% reduction in severe maternal morbidity their incidence of maternal morbidity (12.64%) at the end of the initiative was comparable to the average maternal morbidity amongst the other racial/ethnic groups at baseline (12.18%). **Conclusion.** This indicates that it is important that in Quality Initiative work to always have a lens of birth equity or we can inadvertently widen the gap.

Bridging the Gap between Availability and Accessibility of Resources for Patients within the Transition Support Program at Advocate Christ Medical Center

Practicum Site: Advocate Aurora Health – Advocate Christ Medical Center, Transition Support Program

Muthana Sweis

Introduction. Hospital settings offer patients various services including medical treatment, advice, social work, and sometimes resources to use post-discharge. However, the exchange of such resources between providers and patients can turn into an unsteady transaction. This project involved the creation of a tool designed to be distributed to patients within the Transition Support Program at Advocate Christ Medical Center. **Approach.** Three editions of the same tool were developed during this project and each edition is tailored to a specific geographic region. Depending on whether a patient expresses an interest in any of the five resources (transportation, food, financial, dental, and smoking cessation), they would be given a resource guide by one of the volunteer navigators. A follow-up telephone survey was also created as part of the project. **Outcomes.** The creation of these two deliverables serve as project results. The follow-up telephone survey will help determine the effectiveness of the resource guide. The resource guide(s) have been made available to volunteer navigators for distribution use. **Conclusion.** The creation of these tools offers a hopeful alternative to the original way of connecting patients to community resources. Additionally, this project may contribute to patients becoming more proactive by taking advantage of non-medical resources.

Impact Evaluation- Assessing the Impact of Continued Medical Education (CME) Webinar Training

Practicum Site: Society of Surgical Oncology

Moranda Tate

Introduction. The purpose of this evaluation is to measure the impact that the initiatives developed within the 2019 educational plan had on its participants and, in turn, the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO) members. The SSO's educational goal is to support career-long education, recertification, and quality patient care. SSO provides cancer surgeons, within all career stages, with education to support the advancement of knowledge, competence, and performance in practice, resulting in improved patient outcomes. **Approach.** Per each educational activity, the SSO administers an evaluation, which is mandatory for users to complete so they can claim CME credit. The SSO has analyzed online activities that were conducted in 2019. **Outcomes.** The results show that most users find the educational activities to be very important or important. Additionally, almost all users believe that the educational activity increased their knowledge, competence, and or improves their performance in the topic area. However, response data per each activity was very low and may attribute to a false discovery rate. **Conclusion.** Results provide the support that users who are completing activities find SSO's online activities to be important and increase overall knowledge, competence, and performance in practice in the topic area. This answers one of the evaluation questions to show that the SSO's education is positively having the intended impact on our target audience. The evaluation highlights three substantial opportunities for the SSO to consider for improving usage rates and determining if the educational plan is meeting the needs of the target audience.

Community Partners

Advocate Aurora Health

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital

Chicago Department of Public Health

Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children

Gary Comer Youth Center

Illinois Department of Public Health

Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative

Northwestern University

Rush University

Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center

Sinai Urban Health Institute

Society of Surgical Oncology

University of Chicago Medicine

YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago

The DePaul MPH program and students would like to thank our community partners, faculty and staff, family, and friends for their continued support.

