

## 2024 Research Day Submission

Title: Medical-Legal Partnerships: Clinician and lawyer collaboration to address the social determinants of health

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Introduction: Our poster will present on the systematic screening in an outpatient practice, the Center for the Urban Child, to proactively identify legal issues and connect families with resources or immediate legal intervention to mitigate negative social determinants of health (SDoH).

Methods: Families received a SDoH screener during the visit. Providers reviewed the screeners, gave resources and/or referred to an onsite attorney or social worker. The attorney regularly trains healthcare staff on screening and substantive legal issues. In 2022, the SDoH team changed the screening tools to a resilience-based model.

Innovations include incorporating resources in the after-visit summaries accompanied by QR codes, interactive training for care-team members, creating an algorithm for the social screeners, and expanding the issues screened. Screeners were collected and results compiled.

Results: There have been 80,697 total screens since beginning in 2011. In 2022, a change was made to a more resilience-based screener from a validated question screener. In the first 6 months since inception, there was no difference between the screeners (24 versus 22%, NS). In 2023, 28% of screens identified at least one positive need, but there was a disparity in English (27%) versus Spanish (37%). In our Newborn Clinic (NB) 47% families identified at least one need, and with the same disparity noted with English (45%) and Spanish (63%). Disparities were recognized with food insecurity (16% vs 21%), car seat (4% vs 11%), childcare (7% vs 11%), insurance (3% vs 6%), and other (SNAP, Cash, WIC needs) [15% vs 30%]. Lastly, there were 651 utility shutoffs submitted for medical certifications by families, of which 89% were approved by providers with a standardized practice developed by MLP.

Conclusion: The Medical-Legal Partnership successfully implemented SDoH screening in a busy outpatient practice. This process consistently identifies SDoH in families that can be addressed by an interdisciplinary team in a holistic way. The healthcare disparities identified, particularly with our Spanish speaking families, will be addressed by the interdisciplinary team with quality processes.