

Abstract: Comparison of Needs Assessment using SDOH Screening between 2 New Orleans Based Community Hospitals in Different Parishes

Samhita N. Basavanhalli, Student, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana

Trevor Anderson, Student, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana

Jordan Vaughn, M.D., Clinical assistant professor, LSU School of Medicine

Associate Director of Social Emergency medicine and Diversity equity and inclusion, LSU
Emergency Medicine Spirit of Charity

Social determinants of health (SDOH) screening in emergency departments (ED) is a promising method to capture and address the individualized social needs of a broad patient population, ideally lowering emergency department readmissions while reducing health disparities. In this study, we aimed to conduct a needs assessment involving quantitative data collection using the Splicer Tool built into the electronic health record Epic. Key SDOH factors such as transportation needs, housing, and food insecurity were analyzed to identify patterns of health inequities among patients who presented to EDs at Touro Infirmary compared to University Medical Center (UMC). UMC is a known safety-net community-based hospital and therefore admits a wide range of patient populations. In contrast, Touro is a community-based hospital that is located in a historically affluent neighborhood.

Since a longer length of stay in the hospital is known to cause an increased burden on the hospital and patient through greater risk of hospital-acquired complications and increased costs, we chose to compare how lengths of hospital stays were influenced by SDOH at both EDs. This research demonstrates the necessity for tailored interventions that address the specific needs of diverse ED populations. Future directions include adapting the current SDOH screening survey in EDs to provide tailored resources based on the varying community needs identified in our study to enhance patient care and promote health equity in emergency settings.