

Tackling Food Insecurity with a Clinic-Based Food Pantry and Referrals to a Community-Based Food Pantry in New York



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Background

- KidsThrive is a social determinants of health (SDH) screening program located at a pediatric clinic in East Harlem NY that refers families with unmet social needs to community resources
- 46% of clinic families who were screened had food insecurity (FI)
- Understanding the impact of KidsThrive on FI will inform and improve program design.

Objective

• To assess changes in FI over 3 months among families referred to an onsite clinic food pantry.

Methods

- FI was determined using the 2question Hunger Vital Signs tool.
- FI families were referred to an onsite pantry and offered a food package, WIC/SNAP information, referral to New York Common Pantry (NYCP), and enrollment in the study.
- Caregivers who consented to study completed the USDA Household Food Security Survey at baseline and 3months.
- We used the referral tool findhelp.org to determine successful customer enrollments in NYCP.
- Mixed-effects regression model explored changes in FI over time.

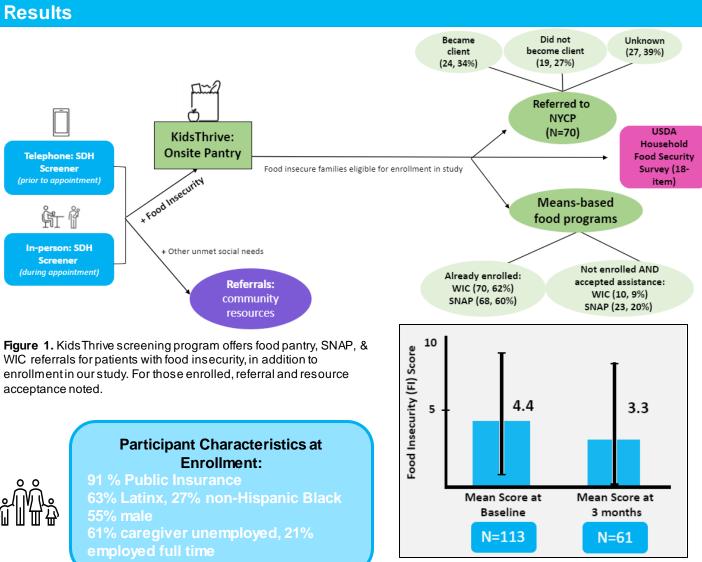


Figure 2. Mean FI score of families enrolled in Kids Thrive dropped from 4.4 to 3.3 within 3 months post-enrollment.

Conclusions

- Families with FI who were enrolled in KidsThrive experienced a drop in FI within 3 months post-enrollment
- Study limitations include no control group, small sample size (n = 113), & loss of participants to follow up
- Future plans include assessing changes in Fl over a 12-month period, analyzing which interventions were most impactful, and addressing barriers to NYCP enrollment.

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