

Objectives

By the end of this presentation, the learner will be able to:

1. Differentiate child abuse from child maltreatment.
2. Describe and understand the impacts of child maltreatment on mental physical and emotional health, and how it affects an individual later in life.
3. Identify the risk factors for child maltreatment

Introduction

Nearly **700,000 children** are abused each year

The Safe Environment for Every Kid (SEEK™) Model of Care aims to **identify at-risk caregivers** in an effort to prevent the occurrence of future child maltreatment

Children are **at risk for maltreatment** due to:

- Parental stress or depression
- Parental substance abuse
- Intimate partner violence
- Harsh punishment
- Food insecurity

Purpose: implement and evaluate the effectiveness of a child maltreatment screening tool for an inpatient surgery service

Goals: 100% of pediatric surgical patients admitted to an acute care unit will be screened for child maltreatment via the SEEK™ model, and each positive screen will receive a social work referral

Methods

Setting: 30-bed pediatric acute care unit within an urban, tertiary, academic medical center

Population: all pediatric surgical patients admitted to the acute care unit

Structure Measures: staff education, implementation of a formal child maltreatment screening tool

Process Measures: formal screening process via the Parent Questionnaire (PQ-R)

Outcome Measures: number of social work referrals

Strategies & Tactics: education sessions, weekly data collection and dissemination, and weekly email reminders

Results

Baseline Data

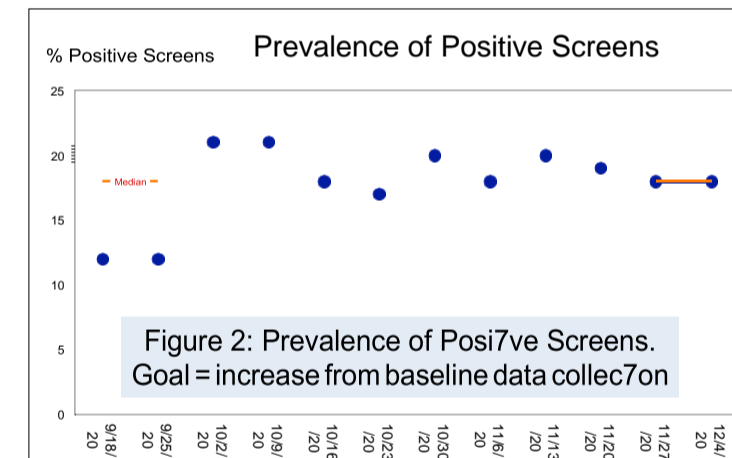
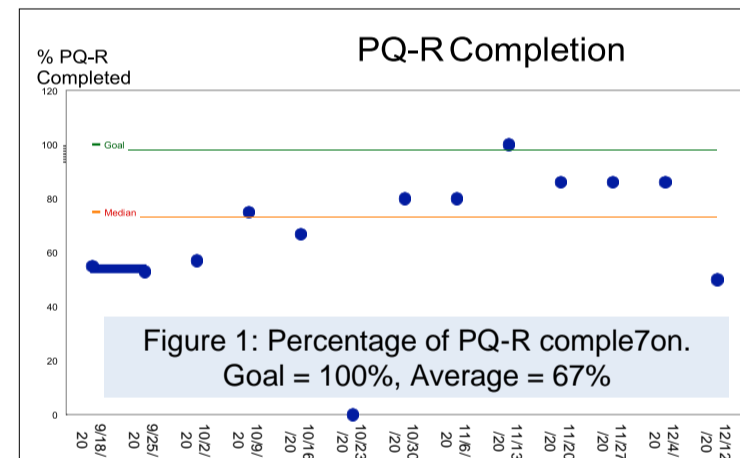
Admissions

n=64

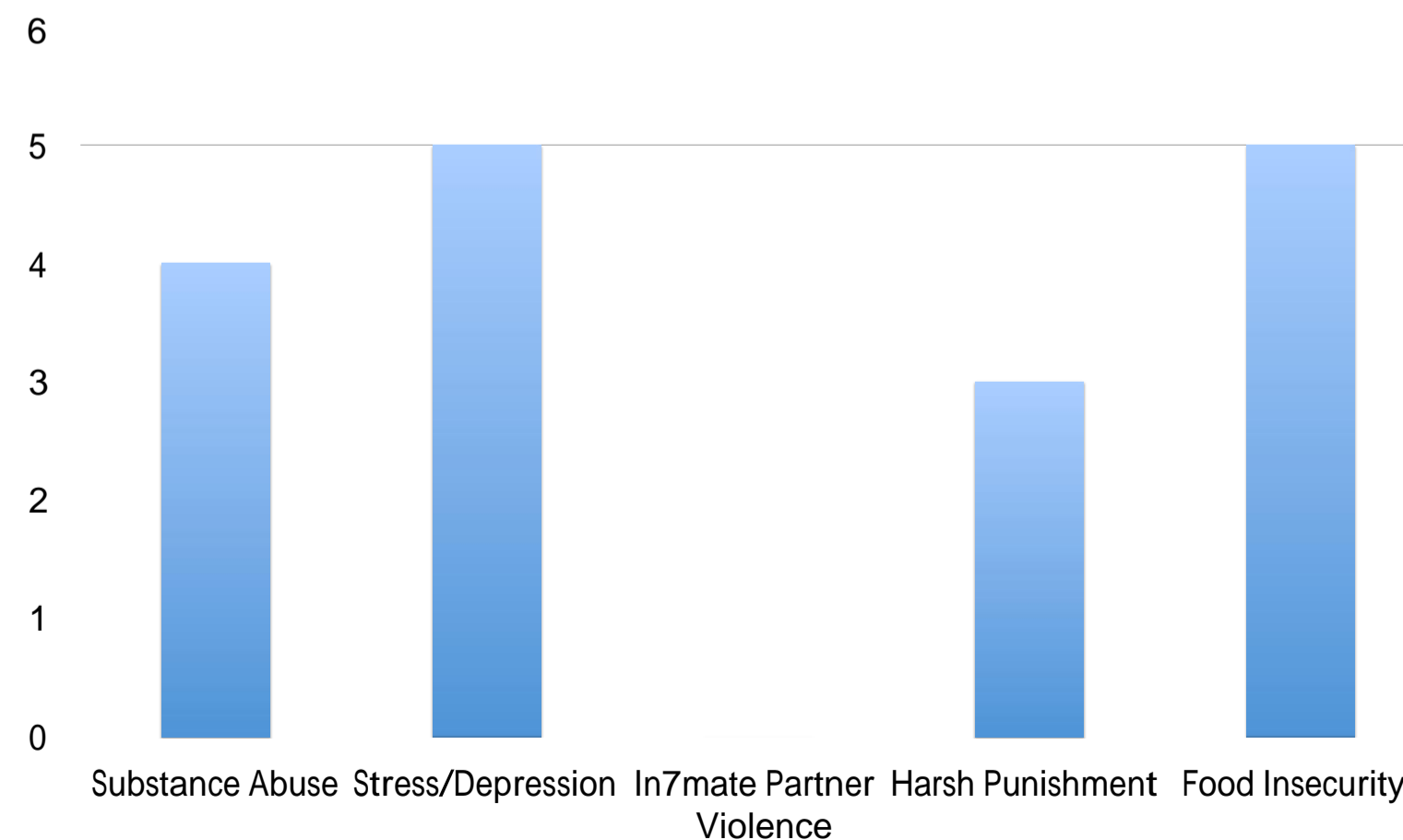
Social Work Referrals

n=5 (8%)

Admissions	Screens Completed	Posi%ve Screens	SW Referrals (from Posi%ve Screens)	Total SW Referrals
n=78	n=53 (68%)	n=13 (25%)	n=10 (77%)	n=10 (19%)



Posi%ve Screen Category Risk Factors



Conclusions

SEEK™ Model of Care is associated with an increased number of social work referrals

Parental stress and/or depression and food insecurity were most identified risk factors

Resources provided by SW include food stamp and housing applications, food shelter locations, diapers, and transportation vouchers

Limitations

Compliance affected by:

- Presence of project staff on the unit
- Presence of parents on the unit

Utilization of the SEEK™ Model identifies at-risk children and families, who would otherwise go unnoticed.

Implications for Practice:

- Could be performed at pre-operative visit in outpatient setting
- Could be RN-implemented on inpatient floor as part of admission process

Future QI Projects:

- Other specialty clinics
- Main inpatient formal screening tool for inpatient pediatrics

References

National Children's Alliance. (2021, January 25). *National child abuse from NCA*. National Children's Alliance. <https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/media-room/national-sta7s7cs-on-child-abuse/>

SEEK™. (2019, July 21). *SEEK™ training*. SEEK™ - safe environment for every kid. <https://seekwellbeing.org/seek-training/>

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