

STRONG CHILDREN'S RESEARCH CENTER

Summer 2017 Research Scholar

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ABSTRACT

Title: *Active Referral for Food Insecurity in Pediatric Population: Pilot Study*

Background: Food insecurity is defined as being in a state without reliable access to a sufficient amount of affordable, nutritious food. A pediatrician's role is to ensure the wellbeing of a child, however, when a parent is unable to provide the necessities for his or her child, problems arise. Many studies have documented the adverse outcomes to health and well-being due to food insecurity in children including poor physical quality of life, which prevents them from fully engaging in daily activities such as school and after school activities, and higher chance of development of chronic diseases. To negate this issue, the outpatient clinic at Golisano Children's Hospital has implemented the WE-CARE Survey (Well-child care visit; Evaluation; Community resources; Advocacy; Referral; Education) since 2015 to screen patients and their families for social determinants of health. In the summer of 2017, WE-CARE Coordinators began a pilot study of actively referring families to Foodlink, Legal Aid of Western New York, or both, who screened positive for food insecurity and gave consent, in the hopes of reducing food insecurity rates.