Implementation of Pediatric Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening in Primary Care

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Time: 9:40 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
Place: Remote

Abstract:

Problem: Over half of children worldwide have experienced abuse in the past year. In 2012, The American Academy of Pediatrics released a policy statement emphasizing the importance of primary care providers implementing Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) screening into all well-child examinations.

Methods: This quality improvement project was a descriptive, observational pilot study in which Center for Youth-Well ACE Questionnaire (CYW-ACE-Q) was implemented into a large, metropolitan pediatric primary care clinic. A convenience sample was composed of pediatric patients between the ages of 5 and 18 being seen for a well-child examination. The aim of this project was to implement ACE screening in the pediatric primary care setting between January 2021 and April 2021. A secondary aim included increasing behavioral health referrals by referring all patients with an ACE score greater than two to behavioral health.

Result: A total of 22 pediatric patients were screened for ACEs during well-child examinations. The average ACE score was 1.8. (n=22). Of those, over half had ACE scores of 2 or more. All patients who had two or more ACEs were recommended to behavioral health. The number of BH referrals increased slightly with ACE screening implementation.

Implications for Practice: This pilot study provided additional insight regarding implementation of pediatric ACE screening in primary care. While the screening rates were low (31%), significant barriers were identified that will provide insight in future PDSA cycles.

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