Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice with an emphasis in Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Rachel Foutz

B.S. Nursing, Goldfarb School of Nursing, 2016

Screening for Food Insecurity in a Suburban Pediatric Urgent Care

Date: July 12, 2023
Time: 8:15 AM
Place: Rm 1 - Seton

Abstract
Problem: Screening for Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), including food insecurity (FI) should be done on a regular basis at a child’s pediatrician. Many children in the state of Missouri do not have a pediatrician or do not regularly see their pediatrician and are therefore never being screened for FI.

Methods: This observational descriptive quality improvement (QI) project utilized a prospective observational analysis to implement a voluntary FI screening tool in a pediatric only urgent care. The project sampled pediatric patients aged two days to 21 years of life. All participants were given local resources after completing the screening. The project included a staff education phase, implementation phase, and data collection and analysis phase. The project used plan-do-act-study method to evaluate limitations.

Results: 261 families were screened over a one-month period with 33% of the screenings being positive for FI. Two two-tailed, independent t-tests were performed to assess a correlation between a child being food insecure and the child seeing a pediatrician in the last 12 months. The results were not significant with p values of 0.98% and 0.52%

Implications for Practice: A FI positivity rate of 33% suggests screening for SDOH should be done outside of a child’s pediatrician and families should be better connected to resources when they do screen positive for FI.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
Elise Schaller, DNP, MHA, APRN, CPNP-PC
Roxanne Reid, DNP, MSN-Ed, RN
Thuylinh Pham, MD FAAP