

F25.16: Social Determinants of Health: Impact on Medicaid Dental Utilization by Children in

Arizona

Overview

We will analyze Arizona Medicaid dental claims data to better understand the effect that social determinants of health have on the utilization of dental services. The overall goal of this study is to identify factors that influence children's utilization of Medicaid dental services. This retrospective study will analyze the qualitative data including the following: child participant's zip code of residence (PHI), age, race/ethnicity, z-codes or potential health hazards related to socioeconomic and psychosocial circumstances such as signs of lack of social support (i.e., issues with housing) markers of family discord (i.e., parent-child conflict), indicators of mental health (i.e., problems related to psychosocial circumstances), and signs of educational difficulty (i.e., poor school attendance). A dataset obtained from the Arizona University Center for Health Information and Research (CHiR) will include information collected by Arizona Health Care Cost Containment Systems (AHCCCS) (Arizona's Medicaid system) and stored by CHiR on the dental claims submitted for dental services on children eligible for Medicaid in Arizona.

What the student will DO and LEARN

The student will become part of the already formed research team to uncover how the social and economic environment influences health and oral health outcomes.

Additional benefits

The student will engage in writing a PICO question, searching the current literature, and participating in discussion about social determinants of health. The student will also work with the team to analyze the data and draft a manuscript for publication.

Additional qualifications

Understanding of basic research design and terminology.

Time commitment

4 hrs/week for 30 weeks