Health Disparities in Child Protection Referrals

Increasing our Effectiveness in Engaging Diverse Families While Assessing for Child Maltreatment

Child Abuse:
Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker that results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.


Each year among 2,718,078 children in Ohio:

1,506 children are diagnosed with cancer
15,000 children have vehicle crash injuries
30,680 children experience child maltreatment
2,160 reports of child emotional abuse are substantiated
5,246 reports of child sexual abuse are substantiated
81,608 reports of child abuse/ neglect are filed with children services
5,294 reports of child physical abuse are substantiated
12,804 children are placed in custody
48,000 children live in homes where intimate partner violence is occurring*
4,341 children take shelter in a local domestic violence shelter**

Considerations

Do racial disparities exist in rates of assessment of child maltreatment and the reporting of such to Child Protection Agencies?

Are minority children referred to Social Work for assessment of child maltreatment at rates that are different from white children?

Are minority children reported more often than white children to child protection agencies following assessment by Social Work?

Are the proportions of children in these racially disparate groups similar to the general patient population of the organization?

Nationwide Children’s Patient Population by Race

NCH General Population

NCH Emergency Department Population

Next Steps

1. Conduct a survey for direct patient care employees to determine their abilities and comfort related to child maltreatment assessments. Note: Results Pending
2. Evaluate Skills, Knowledge, and Attitudes of staff/managers in areas identified to have disparities, and develop appropriate supports, training & resources for staff.
3. Determine patient/family satisfaction with their experience in the process of child maltreatment referral and assessment

*Children birth through 17

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