

Th 8_ A Partnership to Evaluate a Newly Developed Nursing Tool to Assess Children and Youth Who Are Experiencing Homelessness

Michelle Beauchesne, DNSc, RN, CPNP-PC-Retired, FAAN, FAANP, FNAP & Maria Anidi, DNP, MBA, RN

The Team: Pooja Bhalla, DNP, RN, Jenny Gormley, DNP, RN, NCSN, FNASN, Kathy Hassey, DNP, M.Ed, RN & Anthonia Umah, BSN, RN

Background & Significance

Federal data indicates >1.5 million students are homeless. Of these, 4000 are in Boston Public School (BPS). Homeless is defined as “a lack of a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence”. Homelessness is a key predisposing factor directly affecting children’s health and well-being.

Purpose

This purpose of this project was to evaluate a newly developed assessment tool intended for inclusion in student electronic health records. The objectives were to better identify students who are experiencing homelessness, assess their needs, and foster better communication to enhance care coordination between school nurses and primary care providers.

Problem Statement

Care coordination between health care providers & school nurses is currently limited.

Methods

The team, consisting of a PNP, two BPS nurses, and 3 consultants, reviewed a tool developed by Anidi based upon feedback from 114 school nurses from a statewide survey. Six expert nurses reviewed the tool for content validity, yielding a CVR of 1.00. Two webinars introduced the tool to a mixed group of school nurses, professionals and health care providers. Usability was evaluated through completion of the 15-item modified Systems Usability Scale (SUS) both virtually and in person at local, state, and national venues. Reliability: Cronbach’s alpha = 0.91 with concurrent validity 0.806. Northeastern University IRB and BPS determined this to be quality improvement.

Results

Overall >95% respondents rated tool as:

- ❖ Easy to use, collects useful information
- ❖ Helpful, practical, excellent resource
- ❖ Valuable addition to student’s electronic record

Discussion/ Implications for Practice

Tool included in student’s electronic record. Evaluation determined it strengthens collaboration between school nurses and primary care providers by facilitating communication regarding this vulnerable population. This tool is applicable in multiple settings, including school-based clinics, college health, primary and chronic care. Enhancing coordination of physical, social-emotional and environmental student healthcare needs is critical.

Key Words: Homelessness, Care Coordination, School Health

Funding: Teacher Leadership Fund Grants, Boston Public Schools 2021-23