

Social Determinants of Health and Utilizing the EHR to Assess and Address Issues Encountered in the Emergency Department

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Disclosures

- I have no actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to this presentation.

Agenda

- My story
- Emergency Medicine's role in the value agenda
- Definitions
- What we know about prevalence of social risk in the ED and its implications
- Acceptability of screening for social risk in the ED
- Strategies for screening in the ED
- Established interventions once risk is identified

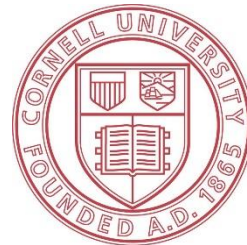
Take-home points

- EM embracing the value agenda.
- Prevalence of social risk in the ED is high.
- Patients are accepting of screening in the ED.
- Optimal strategy for screening is still unknown.
- Established interventions?

My Story



NYU School of Medicine



Cornell University

 **COLUMBIA**

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY MEDICINE

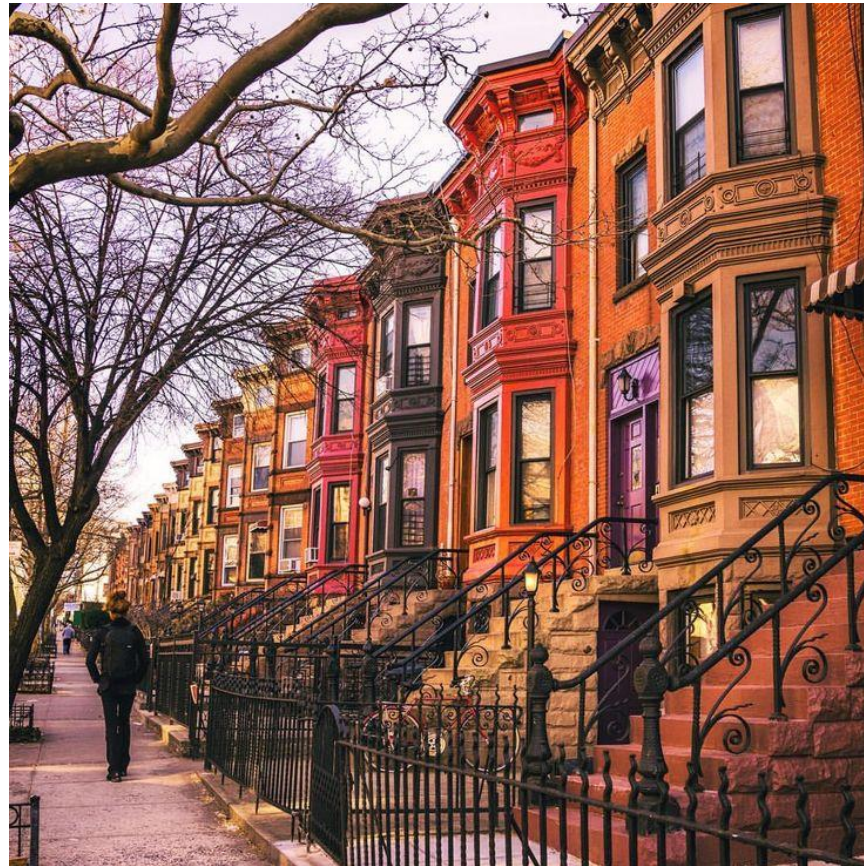
Emergency Medicine: A Historical Perspective



Emergency Department: Front Door of the Hospital



Emergency Medicine: Front Porch of the Medical Neighborhood



Embracing the Value Agenda

$$\text{Value} = \text{Appropriateness} \times \frac{\text{Quality}}{\text{Cost}}$$

Definitions

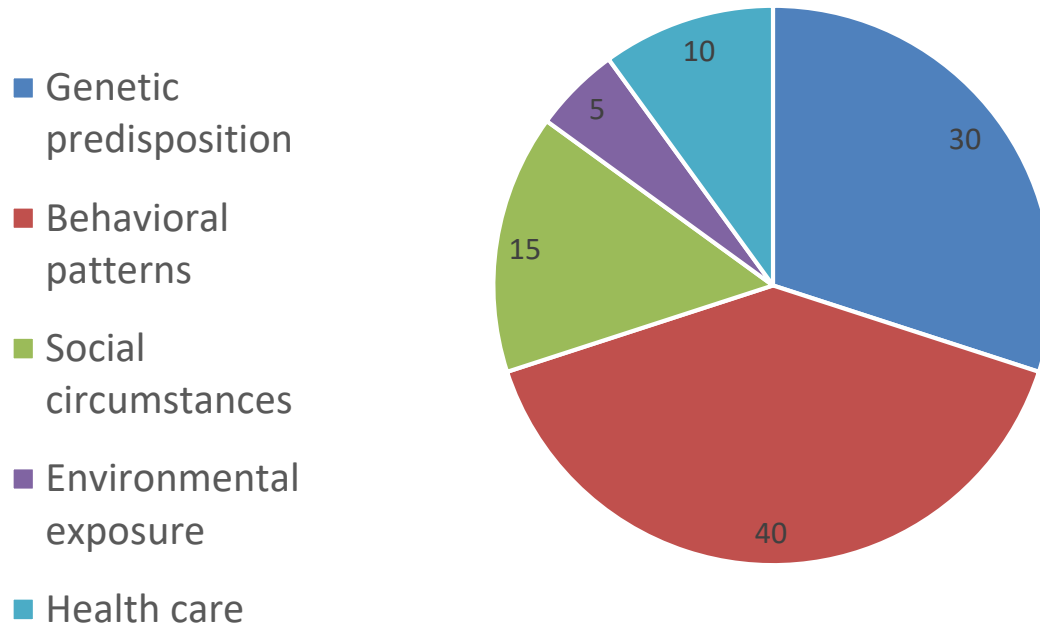
- Social Risk Factors: “set of constructs that capture the key ways in which social processes and social relationships could influence key health-related outcomes” (National Academy of Medicine)
- Social Determinants of Health: “the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age” (World Health Organization)

Definitions

- Social Risk Factor Domains:
 - Housing
 - Food insecurity
 - Transportation
 - Utility help needs
 - Interpersonal violence
 - Employment
 - Family and community support
 - ...

Why address social risk factors?

Proportional Contributions to Premature Death

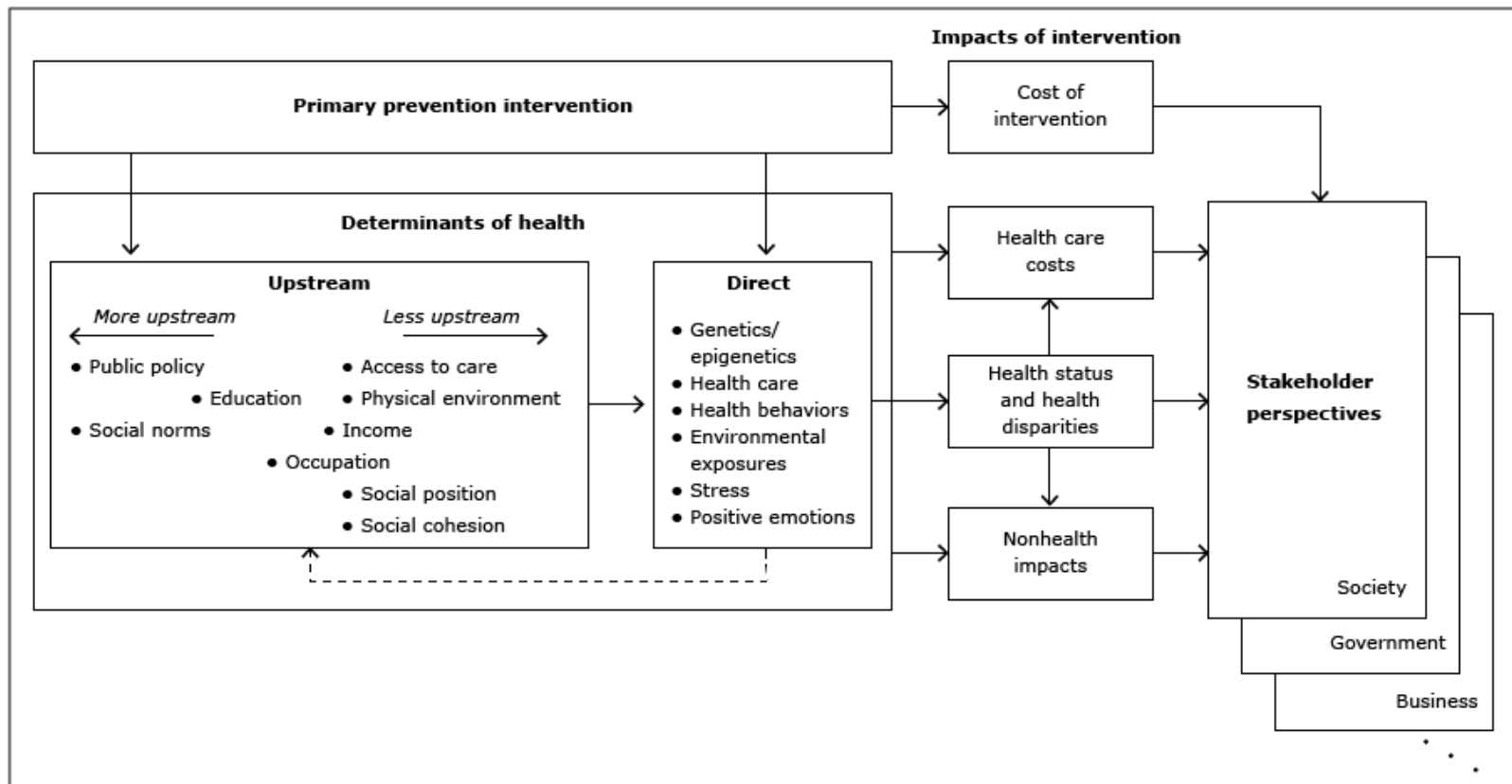


McGinnis JM, Williams-Russo P, Knickman JR. (2002).
The case for more active policy attention to health
promotion. *Health Affairs*, 21 (2): 78-93.

Addressing Social Determinants Underpins High Quality Care



Addressing Social Determinants Should Help to Reduce Costs



Source: CDC.gov

Material Needs of Emergency Department Patients: A Systematic Review

Patrick W. Malecha, MD, James H. Williams, MD, Nathan M. Kunzler, MD, Lewis R. Goldfrank, MD, Harrison J. Alter, MD, MS, and Kelly M. Doran, MD, MHS

ABSTRACT

Background: Interest in social determinants of health (SDOH) has expanded in recent years, driven by a recognition that such factors may influence health outcomes, services use, and health care costs. One subset of SDOH is material needs such as housing and food. We conducted a systematic review of the literature on material needs among emergency department (ED) patients in the United States.

Methods: We followed PRISMA guidelines for systematic review methodology. With the assistance of a research librarian, four databases were searched for studies examining material needs among ED patients. Two reviewers independently screened titles, abstracts, and full text to identify eligible articles. Information was abstracted systematically from eligible articles.

Results: Forty-three articles were eligible for inclusion. There was heterogeneity in study methods; single-center, cross-sectional studies were most common. Specific material needs examined included homelessness, poverty, housing insecurity, housing quality, food insecurity, unemployment, difficulty paying for health care, and difficulty affording basic expenses. Studies overwhelmingly supported the notion that ED patients have a high prevalence of a number of material needs.

Conclusions: Despite some limitations in the individual studies examined in this review, the plurality of prior research confirms that the ED serves a vulnerable population with high rates of material needs. Future research is needed to better understand the role these needs play for ED patients and how to best address them.

Acceptability of Screening for Social Risk in the ED

- Why is this an important consideration?
 - Upside
 - Downside

Acceptability of Screening for Social Risk in the ED

- Methods
 - Tablet-based, self-administered survey
 - Two adult and two pediatric EDs
 - Survey included:
 - CMMI screening tool used in AHC pilot
 - Questions about acceptability
 - Primary outcome: acceptability of screening in ED
 - Secondary outcome: comfort with including social risk information in EHRs

Acceptability of Screening for Social Risk in the ED

- Results
 - 364 participants (200 adults and 164 adult-caregivers of pediatric patients)
 - High prevalence of social risk
 - 41% housing instability
 - 41% food insecurity
 - 19% transportation insecurity
 - 13% with utility help needs
 - Only 23% endorsed no social risk factors

Acceptability of Screening for Social Risk in the ED

- Results
 - Acceptability
 - 73% felt it was “very” or “somewhat” appropriate to screen in the ED
 - No difference between those with risk factors and those without
 - 70% felt “very” or “somewhat” comfortable including social risk information in the EHR

Source: Gavin et al. Abstract to be presented at Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Annual Meeting, May 2019.

Strategies for Screening in the ED



SIREN @ UCSF



Established Interventions once Risk is Identified



Role of the EHR in Social Risk Factor Assessment

- Standardized screening tools
 - AHC Screening Tool
 - Health Leads
- Standardized nomenclature and variables
 - ICD-10 Z codes
- Hotspotting

Role of the EHR in Social Risk Factor Interventions



Questions?