

Utilization Evaluation of See to Succeed Program

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Background:

See to Succeed (STS) is a safety net program developed to provide underprivileged school-age children with a comprehensive eye exam and glasses in the greater Houston area. Comprehensive eye care is essential to rule out underlying visual impairments. Early detection and appropriate treatment are essential to avoid permanent vision loss. Studies have shown that visually impaired children have a negative correlation to academic success. Since the initiation of the project over 100,000 comprehensive eye exams have been given to children with 92.5% of the exams receiving glasses. Many of these children who receive eye exams through STS have vision insurance coverage through Medicaid. Preliminary data indicates there is a breakdown between parental understanding and utilization of vision insurance benefits.

Methods:

Children who remain on the unresolved list after failing the school-based vision screening are referred to the STS clinic. The children attend the clinic via a school fieldtrip where a comprehensive exam and glasses are provided, as needed through the safety net program. Students that need further care are connected to local doctors with the goal of establishing an eye care home. The reporting system was updated to track Medicaid eligibility, Title 1 schools, and returning patients for the 2022-2023 academic school year.

Results:

Preliminary results show total of 1440 patients during the first four weeks of the 2022-2023 school year of which 450 student are returning patients (31%). Total of 81 registered schools have participated, of which 41 schools were Title I. Insurance eligibility for the children registered was 1,026 (71%).

Conclusion:

The safety net program was designed to improve access to vision care for children in need who remain on the unresolved list. Preliminary data from project reporting system shows 31% of children continue to access the program and 71% have insurance eligibility. Further parental education on vision insurance benefits and the development of a support network to guide families on how to use benefits are crucial steps to ensure proper utilization of STS resources in order to meet the needs and the demands of the community.

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