Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences in Primary Care: 
A Quality Improvement Project

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Abstract

The evidence shows a strong correlation between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the increase risk for poor physical and mental health outcomes. For those children living in poverty, the prevalence is much higher. The purpose of this Quality Improvement (QI) project in this large, urban, academic-based pediatric primary care clinic was to increase pediatric provider’s awareness on ACEs through education and to increase the utilization of an ACEs screening tool in this vulnerable population. A pre-post design was performed to evaluate the effectiveness of the educational model and utilization of the screening tool by providers and patients were completed.