

Characterizing Social Determinants of Health Among Prenatal Patients at a Student Run Free Clinic

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Received Aug. 28, 2025; Accepted for publication Sept. 10, 2025; Published online Sept. 11, 2025

<https://doi.org/10.17161/kjm.vol18.24439>

Introduction. The purpose of this project is to assess the social determinants of health among patients receiving prenatal care at the JayDoc Student Run Free Clinic to provide early interventions and ultimately improve pregnancy outcomes. The JayDoc Student Run Free Clinic serves uninsured, low socioeconomic status, and generally underserved populations. Additional investigation and characterization of social determinants of health among this population is important to provide comprehensive prenatal care and population-specific interventions.

Methods. This study is a retrospective chart review of patient responses to a Prenatal Intake Questionnaire and a Demographic Questionnaire at the time of the initial prenatal appointment between 2023-2025.

Results. Review of 43 patient responses revealed 46.3% job instability, 36.6% housing instability, 22% unstable access to transportation services, 17.1% food insecurity, 14.6% tobacco use in household, 12.2% prior substance abuse, and 4.9% physical abuse in the past year. Among those surveyed 94.4% do not have health insurance, 5% receive SNAP assistance, and 20% receive WIC assistance.

Conclusions. Early assessment of social determinants of health and connection to social work and community resources are important aspects of prenatal care and can be realistically assessed as early as the first prenatal visit to promote early intervention and potentially improve patient outcomes. Availability of social work services and connection to community resources regarding housing, transportation, nutrition, domestic abuse, and substance abuse should be utilized among the patient population receiving prenatal care from the JayDoc Student Run Free Clinic.