

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) & K-12 schools serve as central hubs for the delivery of care & resources for our nation’s most vulnerable children. Despite improvement efforts, coordination of mental healthcare for disadvantaged youth remains inefficient, resulting in many families never receiving treatment. This report summarizes an initiative designed to mobilize community organizations, FQHCs, and schools to leverage their unique standing in aims of enhancing children’s access to mental healthcare. Mental health providers from the outpatient, inpatient, and school-based settings were interviewed to identify provider-facing and family-facing barriers and facilitators in accessing and establishing mental healthcare. Overwhelmingly, participants identified the need for a centralized database of mental health providers that allows users to quickly identify care matching their unique insurance, language, and treatment needs. Efforts to develop this resource are underway and will be discussed.

STATEMENT OF NEED

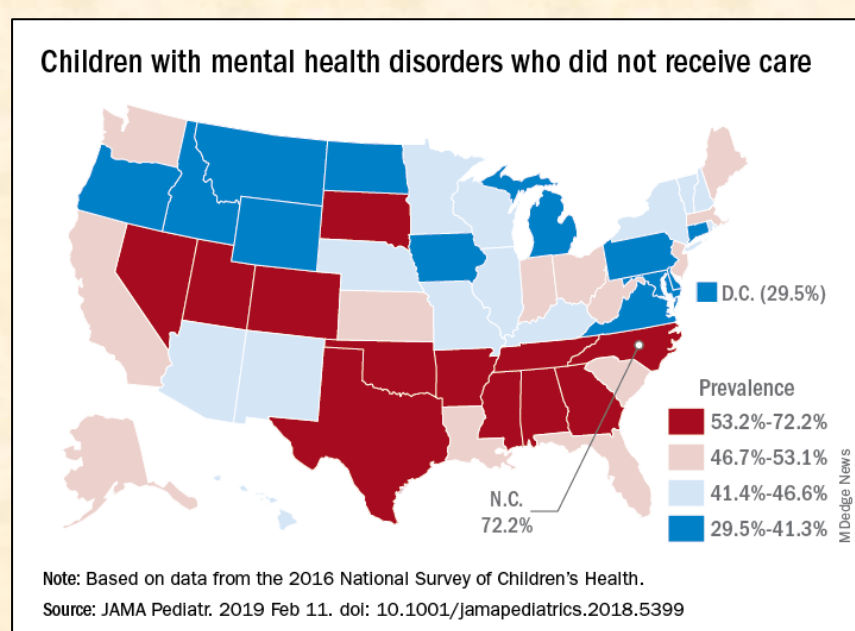


Figure 1. U.S. Pediatric Mental Health Treatment Gaps 2019 per NSCH

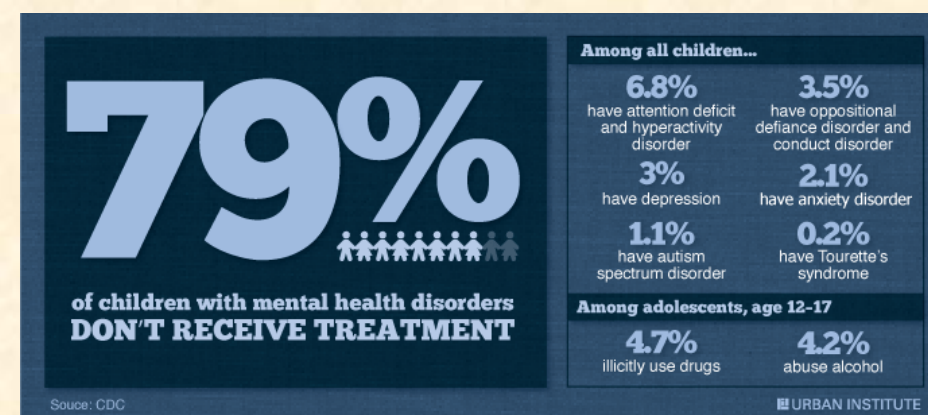


Figure 2. U.S. Pediatric Mental Health Treatment Gaps 2014 per CDC

OBJECTIVES

- Identify prevalent barriers to the establishment of pediatric mental health services in San Mateo & Santa Clara Counties
- Compare and contrast the barriers faced by families, community providers, and school districts in establishing pediatric mental health services
- Inform partnering FQHCs with information about existing key referral services.
- Identify areas ripe for future intervention in aims of making our pediatric mental health system more collaborative, comprehensive, and equitable.

METHODS



- Interviews w/ Mental Health Providers**
 - 22 Outpatient and Inpatient Providers from Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) and County or State-Based Services.
 - Assessed common barriers experienced by providers & families
 - Elicited facilitators to care and opportunities for improvement
 - Identified local service providers & key contacts for referrals
- Interviews w/ Schools & Auxiliary Supports**
 - 10 local public, private, and charter school districts
 - Psychologists, Counselors, & Special Education Directors
 - Assessed common barriers to establishing school-based care
 - Elicited info about how to navigate IEPs & school services.
- Collaborative Building**
 - Forged relationships across disciplines allowing flow of info
 - Created speaker series for NPOs & Schools to come to FQHCs to inform clinicians about how to efficiently and effectively navigate systems.

RESULTS

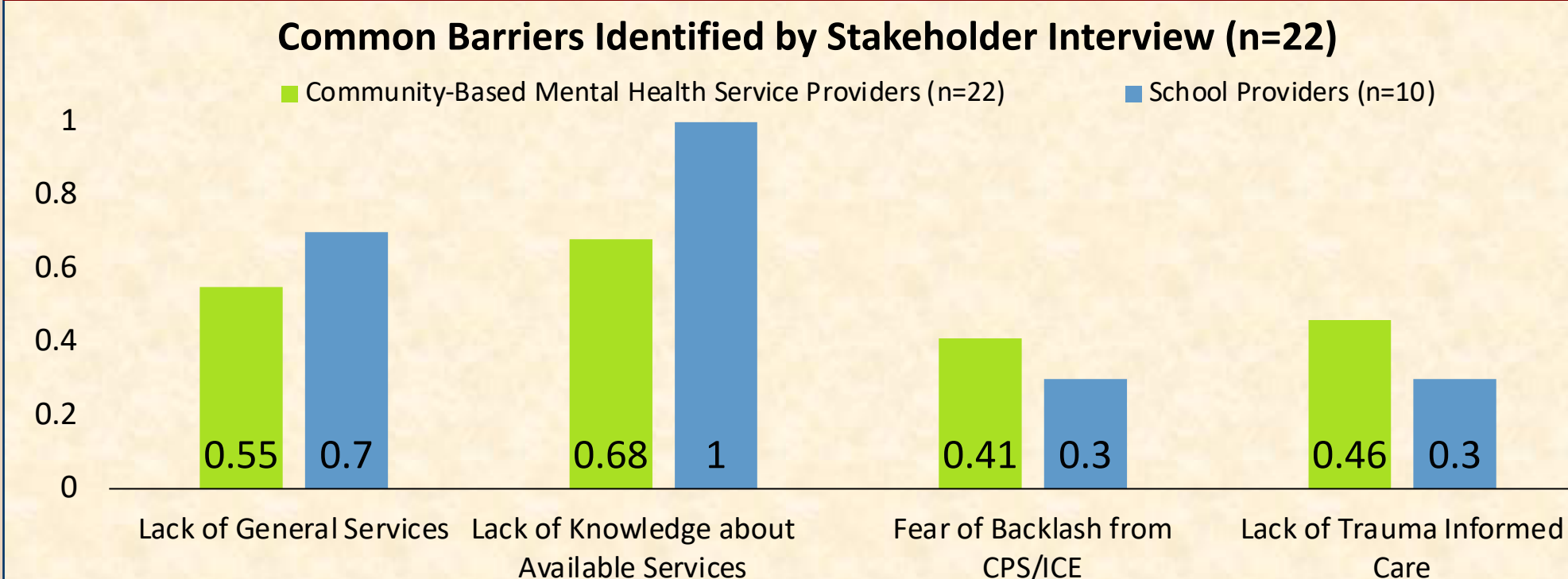


Figure 3. Results from Interview Question: “What barriers are prevalent for your patients in accessing mental healthcare?”

Results suggest that a lack of knowledge of available services is the most prevalent barrier to care identified by both community and school-based provider populations. Furthermore, interviewees exclaimed this lack of knowledge was a universal barrier, experienced at the family, school, and general provider (i.e. pediatrician, physician assistant, etc) levels.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT



Figure 4. Please utilize this QR code to visit our website, www.bridgingminds.org.

- Development of BridgingMINDS**
 - Online resource that pediatric providers and families can use to quickly identify local mental health clinicians.
 - Allows user to filter by location, language, age, insurance, and reason for seeking care.
 - Provides general details and contact info for over 1831 unique mental health providers in San Mateo & Santa Clara Counties.
 - Available in English & Spanish
 - Accessible by computer as well as mobile device
 - Provides information about many levels of care (mild, moderate, severe) as well as many different provider types (psychiatrist, psychologist, therapist, social worker, etc)

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Automate BridgingMINDS’ information pipeline to ensure data integrity and project sustainability.
- Translate BridgingMINDS into additional languages beyond English & Spanish.
- Conduct additional user research to directly assess the most prevalent barriers experienced by families and community members.
- Serious effort must be undertaken to integrate our systems of care. A logical starting point is enhanced collaboration between school & clinic settings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES

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