

MAKING HEALTH EQUITY A REALITY:

A data-driven approach to reducing health disparities for a New York City healthcare system



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BACKGROUND

- Health equity has been at the forefront of the work conducted at the MediSys Health Network for decades.
- The health system operates two safety net hospitals — Jamaica Hospital Medical Center and Flushing Hospital Medical Center — and a multitude of outpatient care facilities across Queens and east Brooklyn.
- The social work department identifies patients with health-related social needs, develops treatment plans and provides counseling, discharge planning and linkages to community agencies.
- In 2021, MediSys implemented a social determinants of health screening tool in the electronic health record.
- Nearly 20% of gunshot wound patients at JHMC had previous hospital admissions due to unrelated traumatic injuries.

METHOD

- In 2022, MediSys completed HANYS' Health Equity Gap Analysis to assess the application of health equity best practices.
- A top goal is to create and improve upon health equity service line projects to reduce health disparities among at-risk populations.
- The Violence Elimination and Trauma Outreach Program is a hospital-based violence intervention program in the Level I Trauma Center in JHMC.
- Social service workers address health-related social needs, providing survivors of gun violence with crisis intervention, intensive case management, counseling and referrals to wraparound services.
- This pilot program included 213 eligible GSW patients from Feb. 21, 2021, through Feb. 22, 2023. Eligibility criteria were: a) the patient

was treated for GSW-related injuries and b) the patient survived their injuries and had the capacity to consent to program enrollment.

» The intervention consisted of:

- ♦ weekly follow-up calls;
- ♦ intensive case management; and
- ♦ referrals to wraparound services.

- MediSys defines program graduation as at least 30 days of service and achievement of short-term client goals. The VETO case manager coded cases as "Closed: Client Goals Met" in the participant's EHR.

DATA OUTCOMES

An exploratory analysis of the trauma registry revealed that GSW patients were overwhelmingly Black or African American, male, not of Hispanic or Latino descent and uninsured or Medicaid-insured.

According to the two-year pilot evaluation, program graduates had a lower trauma recidivism rate than non-graduates, with one out of 75 (1.33%) pilot graduates versus nine out of 138 (6.52%) pilot non-graduates readmitted due to a violent injury.

IMPACT/NEXT STEPS

Following the health equity gap analysis, MediSys appointed a health equity leader, created a health equity and inclusion committee and targeted performance improvement strategies to promote health equity across the organization.

Clinical and administrative leadership used this information to inform the VETO Program's organizational structure, key activities and strategic community partnerships.

MediSys plans to replicate the success of the VETO program across the healthcare system by promoting a data-driven approach to health equity.

MediSys is committed to eliminating the health disparities endemic to the catchment area and delivering the highest standard of care to all patients.

