

#262 Maisam Begum

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COVID-19 and Food Insecurity

During the first wave of the COVID-19 crisis, student volunteers in the College of Medicine at SUNY Downstate conducted a needs assessment and collected data from Downstate's ambulatory care practices. This needs assessment included the collection of information on social determinants of health (SDoH) and unmet needs of patients. This needs assessment provides a platform for the characterization and examination of the association between SDoH and patient outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Student volunteers conducted the needs assessment through phone and were able to complete assessments for 1414 patients. The average age of the patients was 56 years old. The patients were predominantly female with a proportion of 75%. The patients were also mostly Black/African American/Caribbean with a proportion of 91%. 15% of patients had issues with food insecurity, 8% with housing instability, and 15% with paying bills. When looking at the association between type of housing and food insecurity, patients who lived in private housing had a 53% reduced odds of having issues with food insecurity compared to those who lived in public housing, assisted living homes, shelters, or who had no home (aOR: 0.47, 95% CI: 0.29 – 0.78).

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