A National Survey to Characterize Implementation of Child Psychiatry Access Programs

Child Psychiatry access programs are the primary form of telehealth services to improve pediatric behavioral healthcare access and quality and are currently implemented or under development in all 50 states. Widespread adoption of child psychiatry access programs reflects demonstrated evidence of effectiveness in individual studies and evidence reviews. However, programs hold highly heterogeneous design features. These programs fundamentally provide psychiatric consultation to pediatric providers but can also serve as a platform for multiple other services. The present study aims to characterize the key design features and program components for each of the statewide Child Psychiatry Access Programs. The present study leverages opportunities to examine the variation across our 50 states and DC in responding to our nation's pediatric mental health crisis.

The present survey includes a series of close ended questions to characterize the services offered across the nation's Child Psychiatry Access Programs. In this presentation, I will present on data collected on the strategies implemented by the programs to advance health equity. Strategies to advance health equity fall into four domains: (1) equity-focused capacity building within the Child Psychiatry Access Program, (2) investment in a learning healthcare system to advance health equity, (3) development of cross-cutting program strategies to advance health equity, and (4) investment in component-specific initiatives in (a) psychiatric consultation, (b) training, and (c) resources and referral. Strategies were derived from the extant literature and in partnership with leaders from a national network of Child Psychiatry Access Programs. Data collection is anticipated to be completed by March 30, 2023. The survey will be sent to one representative from each of the 50 states and DC engaged in the National Network of Child Psychiatry Access Programs.