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Mental Health Outcomes at a Student-Run Free Clinic

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Mental Health Outcomes at a Student-Run Free Clinic

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Background

- Major depression is a common and treatable mental health disorder¹.
- The PHQ-9 is a valid and reliable measure of depression severity while the GAD-7 is a valid and reliable measure of anxiety severity¹.
- One study done at a student-run free clinic at UCSD implemented a universal depression screening, diagnosis, and management program predominantly served a medically underserved population².
- Another study conducted by the US Preventive Services task force advocates for earlier and more efficient mental health screening methods to improve clinical outcomes in adults⁴.
- A study conducted at a student run clinic in East Harlem found that patients treated at the clinic adhered to care protocols longer and received medications for a longer time, compared to Medicaid patients³

Study Objectives

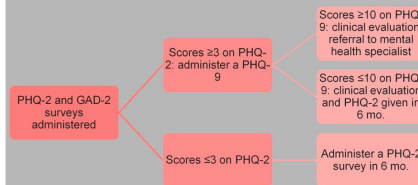
In this project we aim to:

1. Assess the outcomes of screening, management, and diagnosis for patients at the Rowan Community Health Center (RCHC).
2. Compare the outcomes of screening, management, and diagnosis between different groups (gender, race, income, insurance status) using validated surveys.
3. There is a need for accessible and affordable primary care in the South Jersey area, which the RCHC is hoping to meet.

Hypothesis:

- The quality of mental health care available to patients at the RCHC is comparable to that at other insured practices.

Materials and Methods



Phase 1: Participants will be given the PHQ-2 and GAD-2 surveys to screen for anxiety and depression.

Phase 2: Participants who score >3 on either survey will be given the PHQ-9 or GAD-7. Those who score <3 will be followed up with in 6 months.

Phase 3: Those who score >10 will be referred to a mental health specialist.

Phase 4: Study participants from the RCHC will be compared to patients seen at a Family Medicine practice.

Conclusion

- In conclusion, we found that the mental health care given at student-run free clinics is comparable to that provided to insured patients
- There is a paucity of data on outcomes of mental health screening and management programs at student-run clinics².
- This is an ongoing study that is currently collecting data.
- Data collection will add to limited studies of mental health outcomes at a student-run free clinic.

References

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