Partnering to Improve Community Health
Addressing Food Insecurity in Maine

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- EMHS
- Partnerships to Improve Community Health
- Why Focus on Food Insecurity?
- Intervention Approach
- Screening for Food Insecurity
Community Promise

Partner with public and community health agencies to improve population health

Promote a culture of community stewardship to address high priority health issues
Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH)

Northern Maine Rural Collaborative for Healthy Communities (NMRC)
Goals:
1. Improve access to healthy foods
2. Connect community & healthcare
3. Bring change to our communities, and in doing so, change ourselves

Intervention Counties
High Risk Geography – 7 Maine Counties

- Healthy Aroostook
- Power of Prevention
- Healthy Piscataquis
- Healthy Northern Penobscot
- Healthy Acadia
- Coastal Healthcare Alliance
- Bangor Public Health
- Healthy Sebasticook Valley
- Somerset Public Health

Food Insecurity In Maine

- Highest rate in Northeast
- 9th Highest in US for ‘very low’ Food Security
- 24% of Children: 60,000+

Intervention Sites & Approach:
Changing the Context for Health

1. **Food Pantry Network**
   Strengthen the rural food pantry network

2. **Healthier Hospitals**
   Source & serve healthier foods

3. **Caring Clinical Sites**
   Screen & refer food insecure patients

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Maine’s Food Pantry Network

- Food pantries surveyed to identify gaps and opportunities to strengthen capacity.
- Pantry Interventions include "source, store and serve" strategies.
Gleaning - Food Pantry Sourcing
http://agirlsgottaglean.blogspot.com/

Food Pantry Storage
Before/After: Convertible Fridge/Freezer better accommodates seasonal product

Food Pantry Produce Placement
Produce display encourages healthy choice selection
Healthier Hospital Food
Improving Availability, Access and Consumption of Healthier Foods
For patients, staff and visitors

Healthier Hospital Food
Procurement, Positioning & Policy Strategies

12 Partner Hospitals, changes include:
- Baked vs Fried
- Reducing sugar and sodium
- Water at eye level
- Fruit basket by cash register
- Vending items

Caring Clinical Sites
Hunger Vital Sign: Validated 2-Question Screen

October 2015
The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends physicians screen all children for hunger during office visits.

- Screen for food insecurity
- Connect families with food and nutrition resources in the community
- Support national and local policies that increase access to adequate healthy food for all children and their families.
Clinical Site Screening
Hunger Vital Sign: Validated 2-Question Screen

I'm going to read you two statements that people have made about their food situation. For each statement, please tell me whether the statement was **often true**, **sometimes true**, or **never true** for your household in the past 12 months.

1) “Within the past 12 months we worried whether our food would run out before we got money to buy more.”
2) “Within the past 12 months the food we bought just didn’t last and we didn’t have money to get more.”


Community Resources & Referral
Hunger Vital Sign: Validated 2-Question Screen

Community partners educating providers

Eastern Area Agency on Aging
Good Shepherd Food Bank
Healthy Acadia

“This is helping our practice strengthen relationship with community organizations”

Clinical Site Experience

- 28 Caring Clinical Sites Activated
- 108 Caring Staff Screening
- Panel Reach 50,000+ Patients
- 29,788 Patients/Caregivers Screened
- 2,686 Positive Screens (9%)

“This is an important issue our patients are dealing with”

415,000 Lives
Collective Community Reach

Populations Reach:
- 12 Hospitals ~ 10,000
- 85 Food Pantries ~ 147,000
- 28 Clinical Sites ~ 50,000
- Total ~ 207,000 Lives
- ~50% of Regional Population

Food for Thought
Partnering with Community for Better Health Outcomes

Many hands make light work: partnerships lead to better health

Pediatricians play a vital role

Scale matters: aligned networks of partners can achieve more

We can create a future free of hunger

With Appreciation

Peace, Love & Pediatrics
Panel - Community Response to Food Insecurity
Partnering for Better Health Outcomes

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