

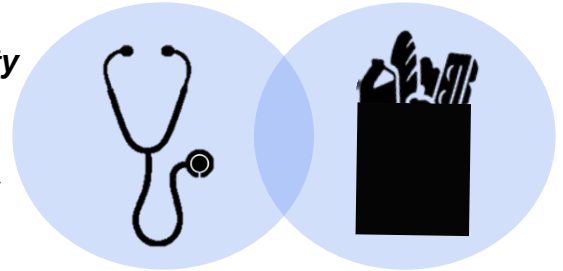
Screening and Interventions for Food Insecurity in Health Care Settings

State Strategies to Increase an Underutilized Practice in California



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A growing body of evidence connects food insecurity to an increased likelihood of chronic disease, hospitalizations, poorer disease management, behavioral and mental health problems, and higher health care costs for individuals and payers.



SUMMARY

The full report, [Screening and Interventions for Food Insecurity in Health Care Settings](#), describes the intersection between food insecurity and health and shares state strategies to increase food insecurity screening and intervention practices in health care settings. This one-page summary highlights key findings and recommendations.

BACKGROUND



Food insecurity is a health care crisis – one in ten Californians (4.1 million) are food insecure, lacking consistent access to enough food. Health care settings across the country have begun to use validated screening tools to help identify food-insecure individuals and refer them to nutrition assistance. In this way, health care teams can serve as a critical connection between food-insecure patients and existing nutrition resources. The California Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Diabetes Association have voiced strong support for food insecurity screenings in health care. However, very few medical practices in California have implemented screening as a system- or program-wide practice.

TO READ THE FULL REPORT VISIT:

http://cfpa.net/CalFresh/CFPAPublications/CFPA-FIScreeningsWhitePaper_FINAL.pdf

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CALIFORNIA LEADERS

The goals and strategies outlined below present a framework for California leaders to pursue. We encourage state and local health care administrators and health care affiliates to work with California's network of anti-hunger, public health, and health care advocates to identify promising opportunities to increase the number of health care settings that are effectively monitoring and addressing food insecurity.

GOAL #1: Screen for food insecurity as a system- or program-wide practice.

- Integrate the Hunger Vital Sign™ screening tool into the California Department of Health Care Service's (CDHCS) *Staying Healthy Assessment*.
- Support efforts to incorporate food insecurity screening questions into the base model of Electronic Health Records in California.
- Support the provision of financial incentives to medical providers to encourage screening for food insecurity.
- Adopt food insecurity screening as a performance improvement strategy within CDHCS's quality strategy.

GOAL #2: Provide on-site referrals to nutrition programs and food resources.

- Utilize health insurance application assisters in health care settings to also serve as application assisters for CalFresh.
- Support efforts to expand on-site 'help desks' to connect more patients to CalFresh and nutrition assistance.

GOAL #3: Utilize proactive referral models when on-site assistance is not available.

- Promote and strengthen partnerships between health care settings and proactive referral agencies such as 2-1-1 and others providing CalFresh application assistance.
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