**INTRODUCTION**

**The Issue: Food Insecurity in Milwaukee**
- Milwaukee ranks 71 out of 72 counties in terms of health.¹
- Milwaukee's projected food insecurity rate is 13.1%.²
- Food deserts limit access to food especially in low-income neighborhoods.³

**The Initiative: Bridging the Gap Between Clinics and Food Insecurity**
- Many of our residency clinic patients are medically complex, socially at-risk for increased hospital admissions (hotspots), and are on fixed budgets.
- Currently our clinics do not routinely screen patients for food insecurity.
- The purpose of our study is to highlight the importance of screening for food insecurity and to pilot a creative solution to assist our patients.

**METHODS**
- This project focused on 62 hotspot patients currently enrolled at two of our family medicine residency clinics.
- A total of 45 ultimately underwent food insecurity screening. Those with food insecurity were administered a quality-of-life survey (QOL).
- 15 were noted to have "very low food security". Of these 8 were randomly selected for the intervention group and received monthly food deliveries from a local food pantry, which were delivered by the medical team.
- During these deliveries, qualitative data was collected. At end of the study, a repeat QOL survey was administered to all participants.

**RESULTS**

**Quantitative Results**
- **49%** screened positive for some level of food insecurity.
- **68%** of the food insecure had very low food insecurity.
- While the overall QOL remained unchanged, improvement was noted in the social relationships’ domain (p=0.01).

4 qualitative themes emerged:
1. Appreciated Food Visits
2. Enjoyed Food Quality and Quantity
3. Improved Food Insecurity
4. Bridged Transportation Access

**DISCUSSION**
- Our main limitation was our small sample size, which made it difficult to achieve any statistically significant changes in quality-of-life scores.
- Innovative, novel approaches are essential to bridge system gaps, achieve better health outcomes and improve the overall wellbeing of patients and providers.
- Our project reflects compassionate humanity which is the core of what we do and it matters.

**FUTURE PLANS**
- Increased food insecurity screening among our general patient population.
- Continued partnership with the Interchange Food Pantry.
- Expanded food deliveries (Goal 50-100 households)

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**REFERENCES**