

Hunger in Oregon and the Childhood Hunger Coalition

Presentation to the
House Health Care Committee

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www.childhoodhunger.org

Key takeaways

- Food insecurity has clearly documented, identifiable health impacts, especially for children.
- Hunger may be mitigated through food assistance programs.
- It is important for those who work with families to help connect them to food assistance resources.



Children are disproportionately affected by hunger

- Nearly 1 in 4 children in Oregon in poverty
- 29% of children experience food insecurity (national average is 23%)
- Each month, 92,000 children eat from an emergency food box distributed by the Oregon Food Bank Network (1/3 of all food box recipients)
- 50% of children qualify for free/reduced meals



Childhood hunger impacts health and well-being

- Physical health
- Nutritional adequacy
- Emotional and psychological well-being
- Academic achievement
- Risk of overweight



Childhood Hunger Coalition

- Formed in 2004 around hunger as a public health concern
- Health care providers, anti-hunger advocates
- Guided by a steering committee
 - Oregon Food Bank
 - Kaiser Permanente
 - Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon
 - Oregon State University Extension
 - Oregon Health and Science University
 - Oregon Health Authority
 - Oregon WIC
- Program of Oregon Food Bank

Engage with the health care community around hunger

- Health care providers uniquely positioned to address hunger in their daily practice
- Oregon providers very supportive of screening for hunger, but time constraints and other barriers exist
- Providers indicated willingness to use screening questions



Tools for health care providers

- Screen and intervene algorithm
- Online continuing medical education course, www.ecampus.oregonstate.edu/hunger
- Educational toolkits
- Digest and website, www.childhoodhunger.org

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION



Childhood Food Insecurity: Health Impacts, Screening & Intervention

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/hunger>

The *Childhood Hunger Coalition* is pleased to present this online course for health care professionals working with children and their families. For course content, goals and accreditation information, see reverse or go online.

This course is free of charge.

Pilot of food security screening

Partnering with OHSU to evaluate the impact of food security screening within the Doernbecher system.

- Evaluate change in food security status and utilization of food resources.
- Develop best practices and lessons learned that can be shared broadly.



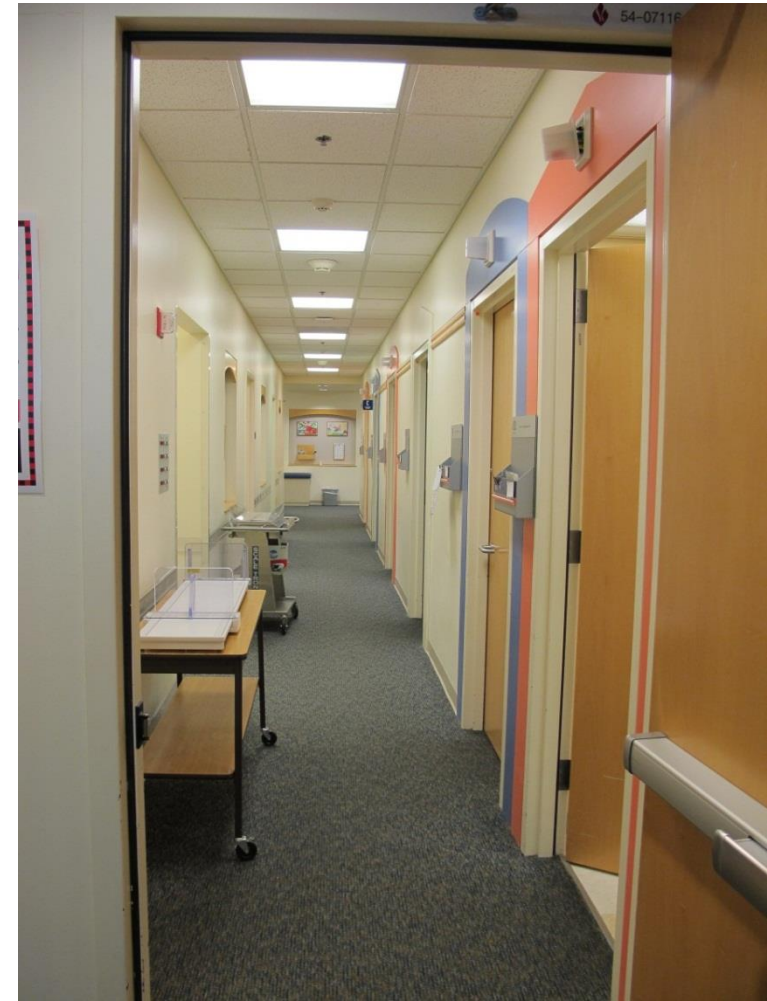
Early findings underline importance of this model

- Over 85 families enrolled in the study
- Providers surprised by how many families are screening positive for food insecurity
- Regular screenings are identifying families who might not have been identified as being food insecure
- Families appreciate this topic being addressed



Next steps

- Produce an **evidence-based model** for food insecurity assessment and intervention in the clinical setting
- **Lessons learned and best practices will be developed into a report** to be shared broadly
- Help **enlist health care providers in the fight against hunger**



Thank you for your time and
interest

Childhood
Hunger
COALITION 

