Assessing the Health Care Needs of Adults with Disabilities in Connecticut

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Purpose

To identify the challenges people with disabilities face in accessing and receiving health care and, using criteria selected by the authors, assess the presence of medical homes among participants.

Background

Healthy People 2010 points out that there is a paucity of data that describes the challenges people with disabilities face in accessing and receiving health care

In the pediatric field a medical home, as defined by the American Academy of Pediatrics, refers to primary care that is accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective.

The concept of providing quality health care based on the tenets of the medical home is now being expanded to adult populations.

Methodology

- Recruitment was done using the Center's network
  - Agencies, providers, and nonprofit organizations
- Methods of recruitment
  - No direct phone calls
  - E-mails
  - Flyers
  - Posting on websites
- Final n = 88
  - Estimated 2,500 people received information.
  - Response rate of 3.5%.

Survey Questionnaire

- Design
  - 54 item telephone survey
  - 20 -30 minute interview

- **Medical Home Criteria**
  (1) Access to health care;
  (2) Usual source of care;
  (3) Personal doctor or nurse;
  (4) Referrals for specialty care;
  (5) Coordinated care; and
  (6) Person-centered care.

  - At the time of this writing, there was no universally accepted set of criteria to measure the presence of medical homes among adults. The authors, therefore, selected criteria to assess the presence of medical homes among participants based on a literature review of medical home components. Began with pediatric model criteria (Strickland et al., 2004 & Okafor, 2005) and added criteria from an advanced medical home model for adults (Martin et al., 2004).
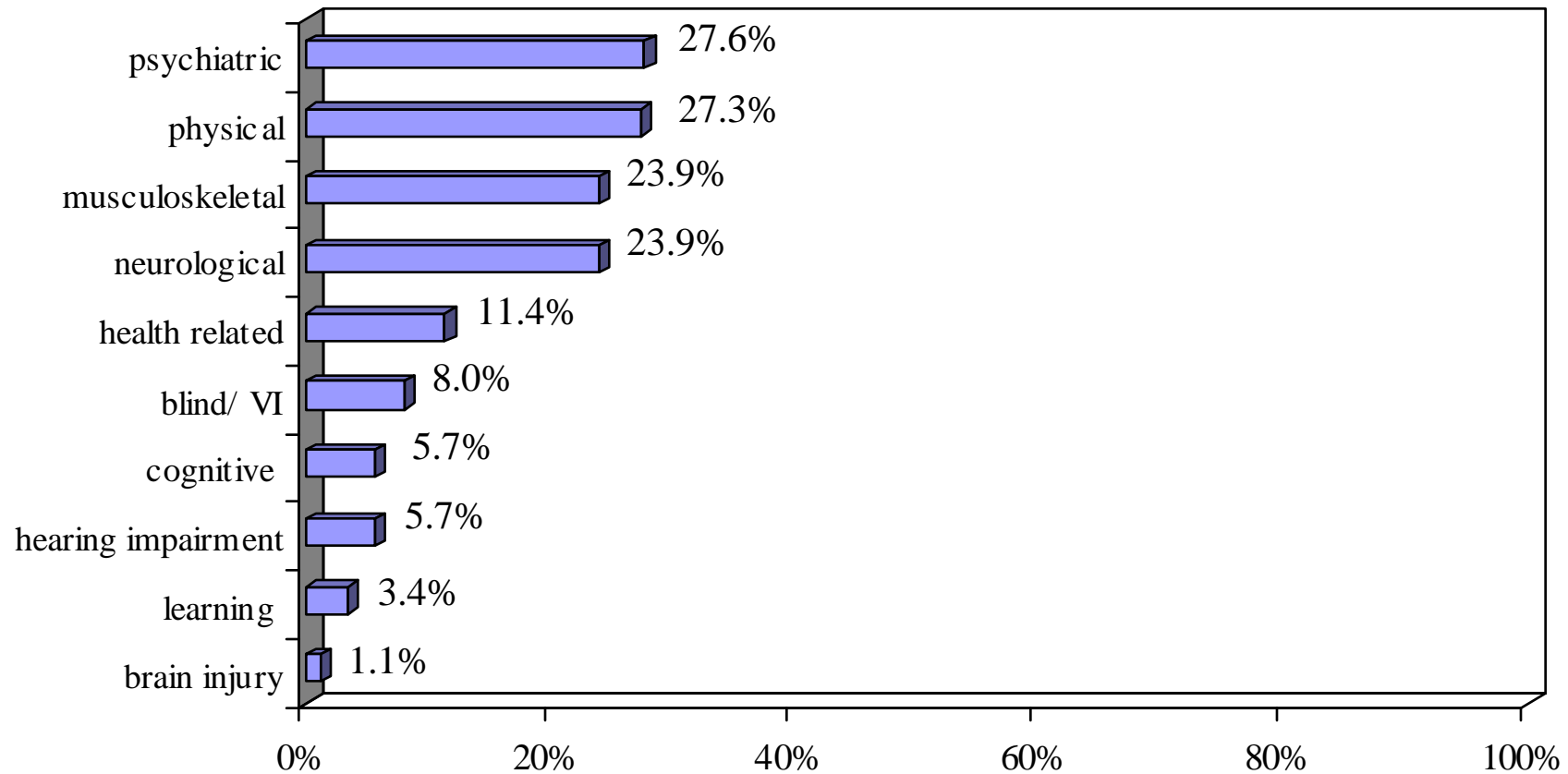
Sample Characteristics

Race/Ethnicity (n = 88)	
White/Caucasian	90.8%
African American	5.7%
Hispanic/Latino	2.3%
Asian	1.1%
Age (n = 87)	
18-21 years old	2.3%
21-30 years old	1.1%
31-40 years old	9.1%
41-50 years old	39.8%
51-60 years old	35.2%
61-70 years old	10.2%
71-80 years old	2.3%

- Age of Diagnosis
  - 40.9% between the ages of 18 and 39
  - 23% at birth
  - 22% after the age of 40
  - 15% between birth and the age of 18

Sample Characteristics

Participants reported having a variety of disabilities and were able to indicate more than one disability

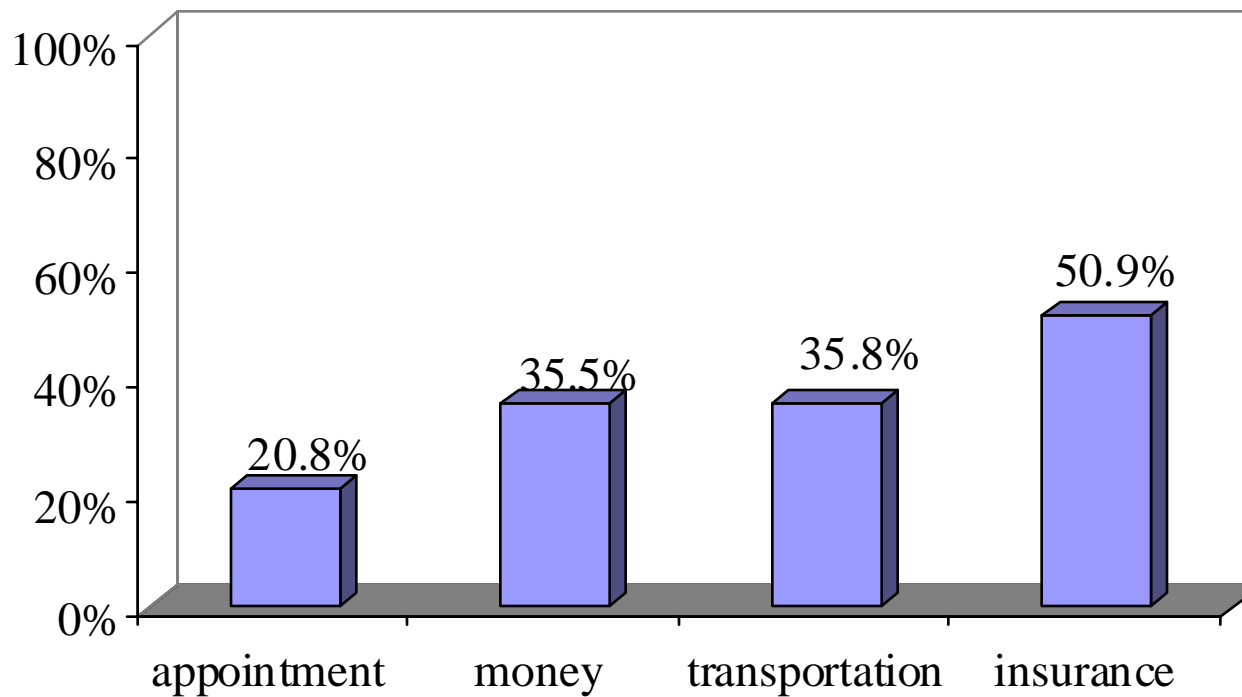| Disability	Percentage
psychiatric	27.6%
physical	27.3%
musculoskeletal	23.9%
neurological	23.9%
health related	11.4%
blind/ VI	8.0%
cognitive	5.7%
hearing impairment	5.7%
learning	3.4%
brain injury	1.1%

Medical Home: Access to Care

- A combination of physical and financial access:
  - Do you receive the health care you need when you need it?
    - 75%, yes
  - Do you have health insurance?
    - 99.9%, yes
  - Does health insurance pay for all needed services?
    - 40% yes
  - Have you delayed in receiving health care in the past 12 months?
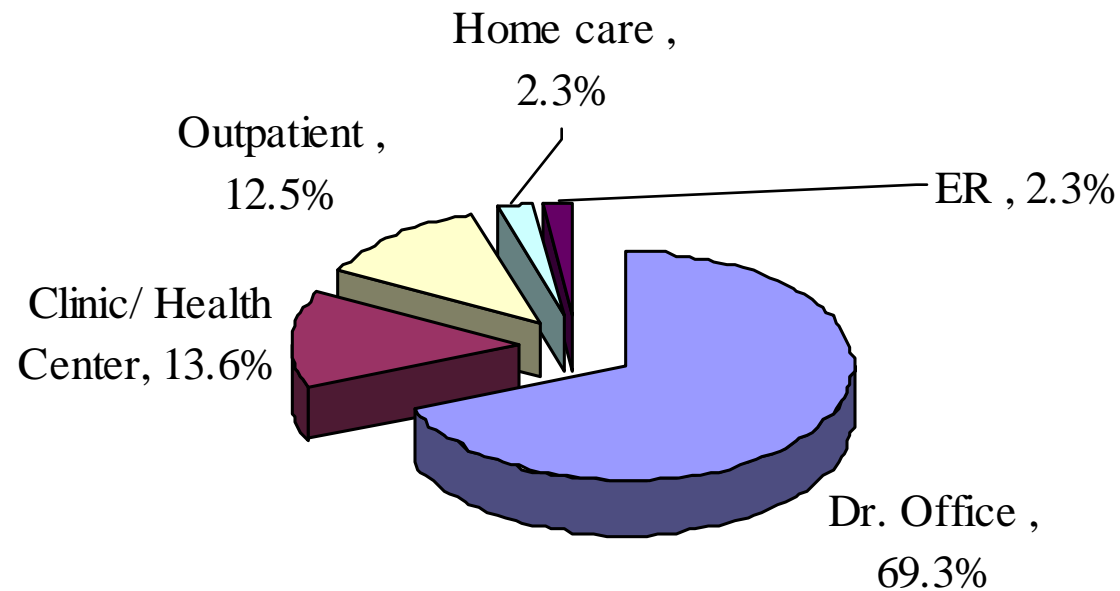   - 40% yes
- 21.6% meet criteria for access to care

Medical Home: Access to Care

- Reasons for delays in receiving health care
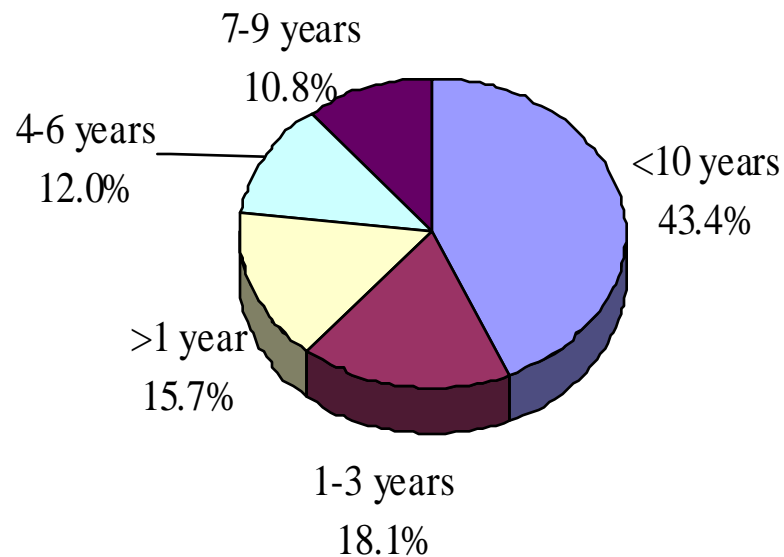
Medical Home: Usual Source of Care

- Is there a usual place you go to receive care?
  - 92%, yes and meet the criterion for usual sources of care

Home care , 2.3%

Outpatient , 12.5%

ER , 2.3%

Clinic/ Health Center, 13.6%

Dr. Office , 69.3%

Medical Home: Personal Dr. or Nurse

- Is there one person you think of as your personal doctor or nurse who knows the most about your needs?

  - 95.5%, yes and meet the criterion for personal Dr. or Nurse

Length of time with Personal Dr. or Nurse

7-9 years
10.8%

4-6 years
12.0%

<10 years
43.4%

>1 year
15.7%

1-3 years
18.1%

Medical Home: Referrals for Specialty Care

- If you needed referrals in the past 12 months, were you are able to receive them without any problems?
  - 76.5%, yes (n = 65) and the meet criterion for referrals for specialty care

    ** If the question was not applicable, the participant could still be considered to have a medical home.

Medical Home: Coordinated Care

- Composite of receiving timely care coordination and having excellent or good communication with physicians.
  - Do you need help coordinating your care?
    - 68%, yes
  - Did you receive all the coordination needed?
    - 52%, yes (n = 60)
  - How would you describe communication with your personal doctor or nurse?
    - 71%, excellent or good (n = 60)
  - 37% (n=60) meet criteria for coordinated care

  ** If the question was not applicable, the participant could still be considered to have a medical home.

Medical Home: Person-Centered

- Composite of physician listening and using effective ways of communicating
  - Does your physician listen to your concerns and questions?
    - 95%, yes
  - Does your physician use helpful ways of communicating (e.g. clearly explaining terms)?
    - 90%, yes
  - 90% meet the criteria for person-centered care

Limitations

- Sample size

- Recruitment method

- limited by type of disability

- Not representative of population

Summary & Implications

- **6.8% (n=6) meet all medical home criteria**

- Major barriers
  - 1. Access to health care
    - When removed, 37.5% meet medical home criteria
  - 2. Coordinated Care
    - When removed, 48.9% meet medical home criteria
  - 3. Referrals for specialty care
    - When removed, 84% meet medical home criteria

Medical Home Criteria

(1) Access to health care;

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(6) Person-centered care.

Questions, Comments & Discussion

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