

Grady's IVYY Project: Interrupting Violence in Youth and Young Adults

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Introduction

Injury is the #1 cause of death among Americans ages 1-44, and there are significant disparities in populations who are most affected. Interpersonal violence and firearm-related injury (FRI), in particular, have reached epidemic levels in the US, representing the leading cause of death among those ages 1-19. In an effort to approach youth FRI from a public health standpoint, the Interrupting Violence in Youth and Young Adults, or IVYY, Program was developed at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, and its impacts are presented here.

Methods

The IVYY Project is Grady's hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP), developed by a team of individuals from various backgrounds, including medicine, public health, and criminology. Starting January 2023, patients ages 14-24 who experienced FRI were approached by credible messengers, who performed needs assessments to evaluate risk for re-victimization or perpetration of violence, focusing on social determinants of health (SDOH) and other factors in victims' lives. Eligible patients received intensive case management, peer mentoring, mental health services, and health education while hospitalized, in addition to comprehensive wraparound services upon discharge. A retrospective review of the outcomes associated with IVYY was performed at the six-month mark of the program. Patient demographics, SDOH, and utilization of resources were recorded.

Results

During the first six months, 333 total IVYY consults were made, 288 patients were eligible for services, and 284 patients participated in the program (98%). Patients were 84.9% male, 92.3% Black, 4% White, and 2% Unknown or Mixed Race. Average age of patients was 24.5 years. At least one SDOH need was identified among 87% of participants, and 30% had four unmet needs. Specifically, 66% had financial instability, 67% had housing instability, 54% had unmet transportation needs, and 66% had food insecurity. Average monthly enrollment during this period was 41 (range, 31-54) patients.

Conclusions

Preliminary results show that IVYY is frequently utilized, and patients who are eligible for the program often have unmet SDOH needs. Addressing these needs may help reduce social inequities that contribute to violence. Given that a major predictor of violent injury is previous exposure to a violent injury, HVIP programs like IVYY can be an impactful way to combat the rising rates of FRI in America and break the cycle of violence.

One-liner

The Interrupting Violence in Youth and Young Adults Project at Grady Memorial Hospital is a hospital-based violence intervention program that aims to provide crucial services to young patients experiencing firearm-related injury in an effort to reduce future violence.



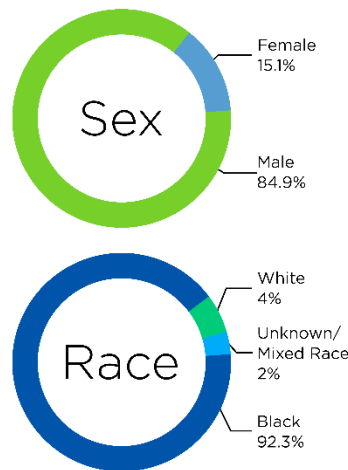
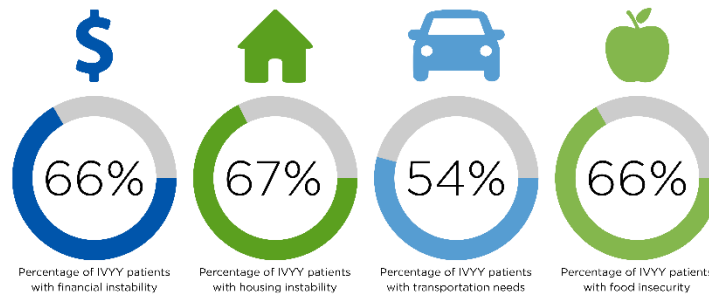
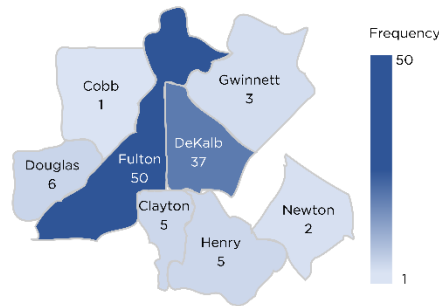
Six Month Status Report

98% of eligible patients participated in IVYY

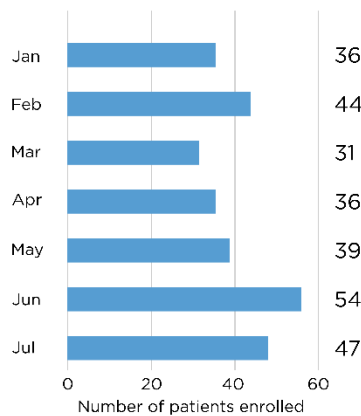
87% of patients have at least 1 SDOH need

30% of patients have all 4 SDOH needs

County of Patient Home Address



Enrollment by Month



24.5 years
Average patient age

333 total consults
288 eligible patients
284 participants

For more information, email info@theivyproject.org