

Unmet Social Needs In Spanish and English-Speaking Families Screened for Social Determinants Of Health (SDH) at a Pediatric Clinic In New York City

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BACKGROUND

Nearly half of New York City households that live below the Standard of Self-Sufficiency have at least one child.

The likelihood of having inadequate income is even higher if a householder is not a US citizen.

Unmet social needs due to adverse social and environmental conditions are associated with poorer health outcomes.

Screening with an SDH screener that adapts to the diverse needs of the target population can help identify issues that need to be addressed.

OBJECTIVES

To describe unmet social needs identified with a phone SDH screener in families that either speak English or Spanish at a NYC pediatric clinic.

To evaluate differences in unmet social needs in English- and Spanish-speaking families.

METHODS

From November 2020-December 2021 an SDH screening tool assessing for 12 social needs was administered to caregivers by phone one week before their doctor's appointment.

Assessed needs ranged from environmental issues in the home, food insecurity and childcare needs.

Families with unmet social needs were offered community resources and referrals.

Variables were compared with Chi-square and Mann Whitney U tests to explore differences between English and Spanish-speaking caregivers.

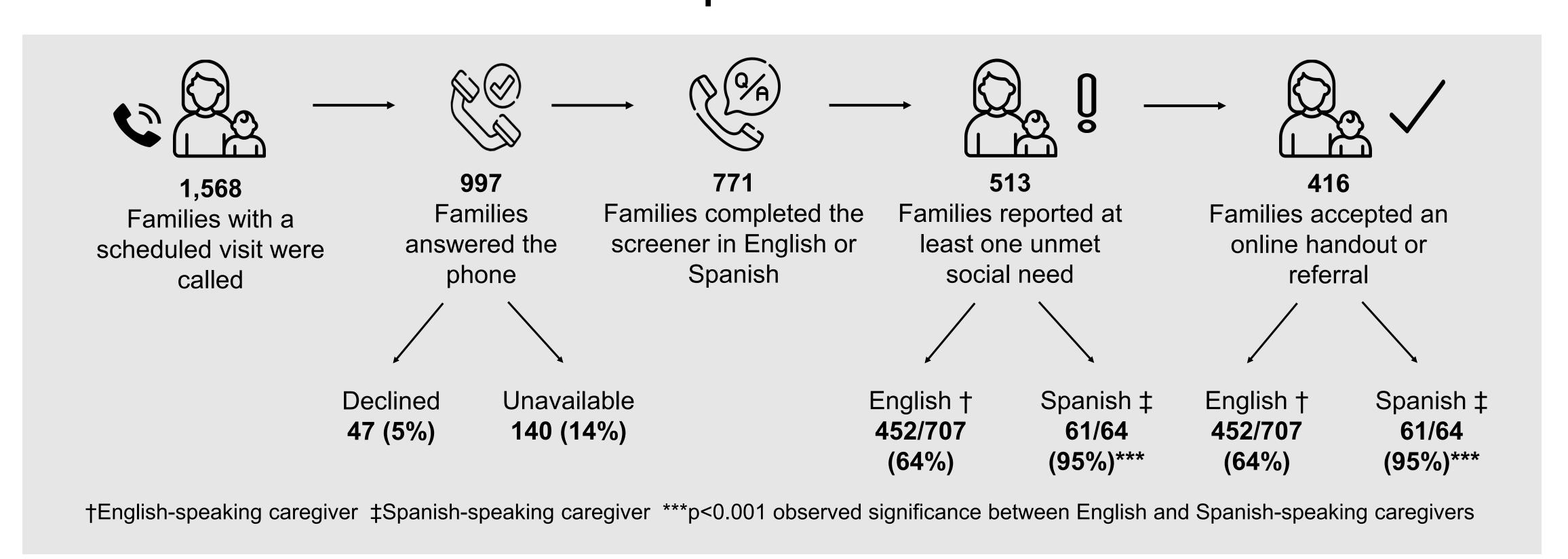
RESULTS

Demographic Summary of Caregivers that Completed an SDH Screener at a Pediatric Clinic in East Harlem, NYC from December 2020 to November 2021

| All Families n(%) | Child's age n(%) | | Ethnicity n(%) | | Insurance n(%) | Food Benefits n(%) Social needs avg (sd) | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------|----------------|--|--------------------|
| Language | <6 years | > 6 years | Non-Hispanic | Hispanic | Public | WIC/SNAP | Nº of social needs |
| Spanish 64 (8%) | 48 (75) | 16 (15) | 0 (0) | 43 (100) | 63 (98) | 851 (82) | 3.1 (1.6)*** |
| English 707 (92%) | 553 (78) | 154 (12) | 161 (45) ^a | 195 (55) a | 633 (90) | 491 (75) | 1.3 (1.4) |

Abbreviations: WIC, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; SNAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. ^a 48% of English-speaking caregivers had missing values for ethnicity.

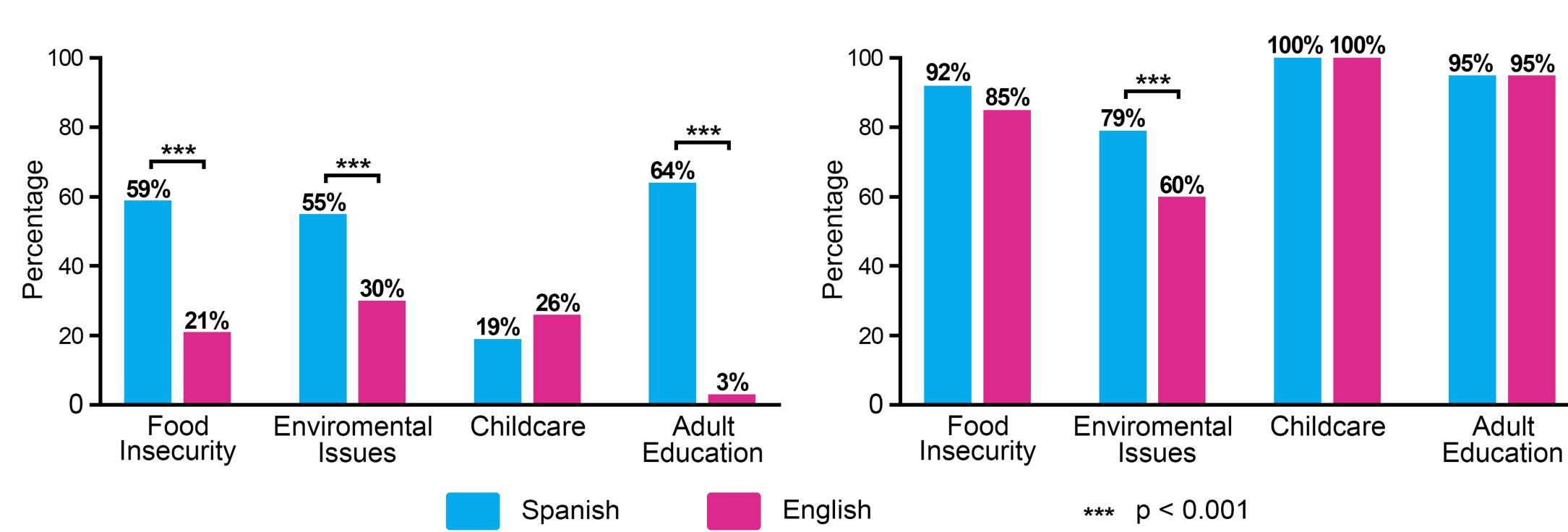
Number of Caregivers Who Were Reached Out, Completed an SDH Screener, and **Accepted Referrals**



Accepted Referrals

Adult

Unmet Social Needs



CONCLUSIONS

A phone-based SDH screener successfully identified a range of unmet social needs in our pediatric population.

Spanish-speaking caregivers reported significantly more needs and were more likely to accept community resources.

Efforts to expand screenings for Spanish-speaking families with appropriate language-based resources may be a valuable intervention in outpatient settings in NYC.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS





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^{***} p<0.001 observed significance between English and Spanish-speaking caregivers.