Combatting Developmental Delays in Non-English Speaking Children in the Hillyard Community – Spokane, Washington

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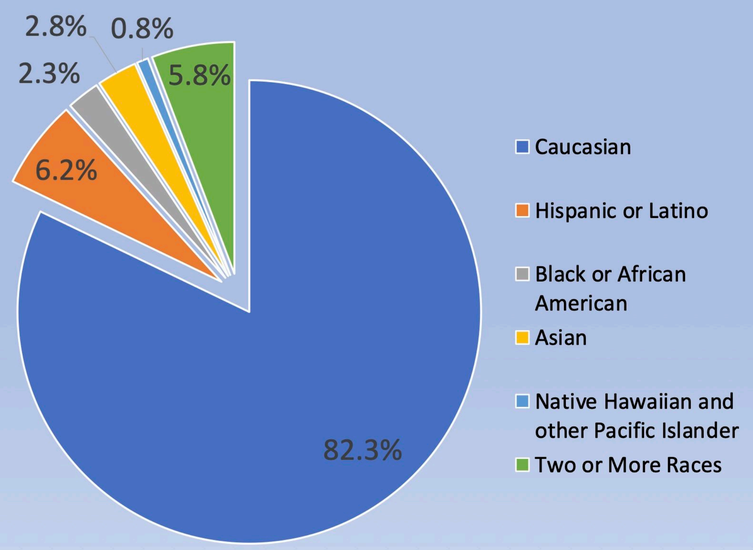
Hypothesis: Improved clinical and community resources will help identify and reduce the incidence of developmental delays in children of non-English speaking families.

Background - Hillyard

- Population (2016): 14,233
- Median Household Income (2016): $41,893 (8.1% below Spokane median)
- Hillyard, one of the poorest neighborhoods in Spokane, has been known as an ethnically and racially diverse community even before its' annexation into Spokane in 1924
- High prevalence of Marshallese, Russian, and Arabic families

Race Breakdown of the Hillyard Neighborhood



Public Health Concerns

- Multiple providers and staff noted the challenges assessing childhood development in non-English speaking families
- Language barriers and inadequate community resources may improperly diagnose children with or without developmental delays

SPOKANE REGIONAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Literature Review

- Developmental tests such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and the Mullens Scale of Early Learning (MSEL) are valid and reliable methods for detecting developmental delays are available in various languages
- Lower socioeconomic status (SES) has been correlated with lower scores on developmental screenings
- Use of in-person professional medical translators, in clinics and in conjunction with community resources, improves patient outcomes and limits medical errors
- Use of translated ASQs or MSELs in combination with professional in-person medical translators could better identify and address development delays in non-English speaking children

Community Assets

- ASAP Translations provides translators throughout Spokane. However, there are limited numbers of medical translators available for many languages
- Early Head Start works with children with developmental delays from birth to age five
- Infant Toddler Network works with referred families who have children with developmental delays
- Local organizations can be strengthened with better access to translators and improved outreach abilities to immigrant/refugee families

Conclusion

- RUOP has revealed insight into the challenges and rewards for providing medical care to patients and families from various cultural worldviews
- Additionally, language barriers require respectful and nurturing support to families when dealing with challenging diagnoses such as childhood developmental delays
- Access to community resources and translator services can greatly impact immigrant and refugee health outcomes

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