TRANSPORTATION AND HEALTH ACCESS
WHERE ARE WE NOW AND WHERE WE CAN GO?

TRANSPORTATION AS A BARRIER TO HEALTH CARE

3.6 MILLION AMERICANS MISS AT A MINIMUM ONE MEDICAL APPOINTMENT EACH YEAR DUE TO A LACK OF TRANSPORTATION

THE IMPACT OF TRANSPORTATION ON PATIENT HEALTH

- Delayed or missed medical appointments
- Interrupted delivery of care
- Inability to comply with prescribed health management plans
- Difficulty making and keeping follow-up appointments
- Poor health outcomes
- Increased use of emergency department care

THE BURDEN OF MISSED MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS FOR HEALTH CENTERS

Missed medical appointments are widely considered to be a significant financial burden for health care providers. However, there is no standardized method to assess transportation as a barrier to accessing health care.

Citations:
- Davies et al., 2016
- Mattson, 2011
- Syed et al., 2013
- Transportation for Healthy Communities Collaborative

Non-standardized means to assess transportation as a barrier to health care include:
- Treatment Transportation
- Point of Care
- Community-Based
- Telehealth

CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Providing transportation often requires addressing logistical issues, dealing with the high cost of gas and vehicles, sourcing adequate funds, and engaging with stakeholders. The following are recommendations that could be considered for healthcare providers.

- Distance Strategies
- Pedestrian Transit
- Botanical Transit
- Paratransit
- Shuttle Services
- Fixed-route

- Mobile Clinics
- Motorized
- Non-Motorized

- Clinics at Social Service Sites
- Community health centers
- Homeless shelters

- One-Stop-Shops
- Community resource centers
- Traveling medical units

- Telehealth
- Telephonic
- Videoconferencing

- Hours of Operation
- AM
- PM

- Vouchers & Reimbursements
- Direct
- Indirect

-固定-Road Shuttle Service
- Door-to-door
- Fixed-route

- Health Center Infrastructure
- Infrastructure development
- Technology

- Health Care Providers
- Hospitals
- Health centers

STRAATEGIES & IMPLEMENTATION

NO ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL SOLUTION

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

- Directly providing transportation services to patients
- Engaging community organizations
- Partnering with public and private entities

COMMUNITY-BASED POINT OF CARE

- Mobile clinics
- Fixed-route shuttle services
- Telehealth services

HEALTH CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE

- Technology
- Infrastructure development
- Equipment

DIVERSIFIED FUNDING

- Grants
- Donations
- Legacies
- Federal, state, and local government funding

HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS

- RURAL COMMUNITIES
- Low-income individuals/families
- Veterans
- Elders

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Arcury et al., 2005; Battista, Lee, Kolodinsky, & Heiss, 2015; Burkhart, 2006; Mattson, 2011; Syed, Gerber, & Sharp, 2013; Transportation for Healthy Communities Collaborative

TRANSPORTATION BASICS

KEY TERMS & DEFINITIONS

- Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT): Medical transportation services for medically necessary trips, including services for veterans, elderly, and disabled populations
- Patient-Centered Transportation
- Transportation
- Modes of Transportation

Measuring Transportation as a Barrier to Health Care

- No standardized method has been used to assess transportation as a barrier to health care
- Measuring the relationship between transportation and access to medical care is complex

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