Poverty Interventions for Child Health

Child Poverty
A practical tool for primary care

What can we do as primary care providers to address this risk factor and reduce inequalities?

Poverty must be addressed like other major health risks. The evidence shows that socio-economic status and child health are strongly linked.

Children living in poverty are more likely to experience low birth weight, learning difficulties, mental health problems, iron deficiency anemia, burns and injuries, obesity and hospitalization than their richer peers. Teen girls in the lowest income quintile are 4 (rural) to 10 (urban) times as likely to become pregnant, and 6 (rural) to 19 (urban) times as likely to give birth as teen girls in the highest income group.

“There is strong and growing evidence that higher social and economic status is associated with better health. In fact, these two factors seem to be the most important determinants of health”
- Public Health Agency of Canada

ASK (once a relationship exists with a family):

1. Do you have trouble making ends meet?
2. Do you have trouble feeding your family?
3. Do you have trouble paying for medications?
4. Do you receive the child tax benefit?
5. Do you have legal or immigration challenges?
6. How is your housing?

See back for resources
RESOURCES TO REDUCE CHILD POVERTY

Consider photocopying for your patients

1. Do you find yourself running out of money to pay for food or shelter?

   Benefits and Supports
   - www.canadabenefits.gc.ca (Federal)
   - www.gov.mb.ca/residents (Provincial)

   Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)
   - 1-800-959-8281 (CRA)
   - www.cra-arc.gc.ca/volunteer
   - 1-204-989-1912 (CVITP from February to May 1)

2. Do you have trouble feeding your family?

   Winnipeg Harvest
   (also provides referrals to rural food banks)
   - 204-982-3660 or 1-800-970-5559
   - www.winnipegharvest.org

   School-aged children
   - www.breakfastclubcanada.org

3. Do you have trouble paying for medications?

   Manitoba Pharmacare Program
   - 204-786-7141 or 1-800-297-8099
   - www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/

4. Do you receive the monthly child tax benefits?

   Service Canada
   - www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/goc/cctb.shtml
   - 1-800-622-6232

   Canada Revenue Agency
   - www.cra-arc.gc.ca/benefits
   (includes links on universal child care benefit and children’s special allowances)
   - 1-800-387-1193

5. Do you have legal or immigration challenges?

   Community Legal Education Association (Manitoba) Inc. (CLEA)
   - www.communitylegal.mb.ca ~ 1-800-262-8800

   Public Interest Law Centre (includes Poverty Law Unit)
   - www.legalaid.mb.ca ~ 1-800-261-2960

   Immigration Manitoba
   - www.immigratemanitoba.com ~ 204-945-6300
   - www.manitobastart.com ~ 204-944-8833

6. Do you have a safe and clean place to live?

   Winnipeg Bylaw Enforcement Services:
   Within Winnipeg call 311; outside of Winnipeg contact local Public Health Inspector listed on
   - www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/protection/contact.html

   Community Safety - Public Safety Investigations
   - Manitoba Justice 1-800-954-9631
   - www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/scna.html

   Domestic Violence Crisis Line and Violence Prevention Program
   - 1-877-977-0007

   Emergency Shelters
   - www.winnipegrentnet.ca/help-links/help-emergency.cfm

Contact Community Information provides a directory of supports and services available throughout Manitoba. Allows for searches for specific organizations or service needs based on topic or location. Browse www.contactmb.org or call 1-866-266-4636.

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