

Food Allergy Disparities and Unmet Needs: Health Equity Implications

Investigators

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Project Summary

Food allergies (FAs) affect an estimated 8% of children and 11% of adults in the United States. People with a FA may experience FA-related economic burden, lower health-related quality of life, and increased risk of comorbid atopic conditions (i.e., eczema, asthma, and/or allergic rhinitis). However, the distribution of FA burden may vary across different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic strata. This project uses qualitative research methods (i.e., key informant interviews and focus groups) to develop and refine communication and engagement strategies for diverse food allergy patients and caregivers. Building on existing relationships, this project is a collaboration with Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy and Coppin State University College of Health Professions and Nursing, as well as community-based organizations to understand diverse food allergy patients and caregiver/stakeholder perspectives and their unmet needs and to advance tailored, culturally competent communication and engagement strategies for diverse populations.

Populations Served: Black or African American, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, White, and Hispanic or Latino

Goals/Aims:

- To increase understanding of perceptions and unmet needs of diverse FA pediatric and adult patients, caregivers, and racial and ethnic minority communities.
- To understand perspectives of clinicians and food allergy health care professionals to determine the needs of racial and ethnic minority FA patients and caregivers.
- To obtain recommendations on effective communication and engagement strategies from diverse patients, parents/caregivers, and health care professionals.
- To amplify diverse FA patient and caregiver voices and to identify action-oriented solutions for reducing food allergy disparities.

Publications/Abstracts/Posters, etc.

- Manuscript in preparation.