

Implementation of a Teledermatology Program at UR Well

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INTRODUCTION

The poverty rate in Rochester, NY is 33.8% and the city ranks as the 5th poorest city in the United States, among the top 75 metropolitan areas. The UR-Well St. Joseph Neighborhood Clinic in Rochester, NY provides care to medically underserved members of the community. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple health centers have relied on telehealth to bridge disparities in healthcare access.

In partnership with St. Joseph Neighborhood clinic, the student-run UR Well program provides general healthcare and subspecialty services to a medically underserved urban community at a free or reduced cost. These subspecialty services do not include dermatologic care. This community health engagement project sought to survey the need for dermatologic services and interest in incorporating teledermatology in the UR Well program at St. Joseph Neighborhood clinic.

COMMUNITY PARTNER

St. Joseph Neighborhood Clinic	UR Well
Services a largely diverse and medically underserved population	Student-run clinic with effective leadership structure
Provides free/reduced health services	Organized healthcare delivery model
Longstanding partnership with UR Well	Readily accessible student volunteers

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Developed project proposal and patient survey

Surveyed patients (English and Spanish) October 2020-November 2020

Analyzed results

Table 1: Patient Characteristics

Age – mean (range)	46 (23-64)
Gender – n (%)	
Male	52.6
Female	47.3
Ethnicity – n (%)	
Hispanic	15.7
Non-Hispanic	.0
Caucasian	36.8
African American	36.8
Asian	.05
Native American	.0

Placement Survey

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| Placement and Placement

Survey respondents (n=19)

84% uninsured

84% never used telemedicine

36.8% interested in teledermatology

31.8% not interested in teledermatology

31.8% did not specify interest

CONCLUSIONS

- A large 84% of survey respondents were uninsured and have never used telemedicine.
- A notable 36.8% of respondents reported interest in teledermatology services;
 31.8% of respondents reported a disinterest in teledermatology services.
- This pilot study show that teledermatology services at UR Well may help bridge inequities in healthcare access among a substantial proportion of underinsured patients.
- Limitations: The study was limited by the small sample size due to early closure of the UR Well clinic due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Survey responses may also be biased by disparities in healthcare literacy among respondents.

IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Continued patient survey is required to confirm the interest in teledermatology services at UR Well.
- The implementation of teledermatology at UR Well is a multistep process that will ultimately allow patients to utilize technology at the UR Well clinic to access an offsite dermatologist.
- Recruitment of a local volunteer dermatologist to provide the teledermatology service, once implemented, is underway.