BACKGROUND
• CPS receives an estimated 4.4 million yearly reports of child abuse, almost 2,000 of which result in death
• 30% of children with abusive head trauma have previous sentinel injuries that are not addressed
• Sentinel injury identification presents opportunities to prevent severe abuse
• Clear evidence-based guidelines exist for sentinel injury identification and reporting, but these are not emphasized in medical education

METHODS
• Population
  • First and second year Physician Assistant students at Anschutz Medical Campus
• Pre-intervention survey
  • Identification, workup, and reporting sentinel injuries of child abuse
• Interventional lecture
  • Delivered in person, using cases and current evidence-based guidelines
• Post-intervention survey
  • Evaluating same skills as initial survey

RESULTS

Conclusions
• Although PA students did not show deficits (performance < 70%) in all knowledge domains, they showed significant improvement in all areas with deficit following the intervention
• Students expressed a desire for further learning in these areas
• Results indicate that targeted education to address sentinel injuries has significant impact on student ability to identify and report these injuries
• Limitations include small sample size and lack of true control group

IMPLICATIONS
• Medical education may benefit from incorporating targeted interventions about sentinel injuries and child abuse
• Future Work
  • Expansion of intervention to full integration in PA curriculum, with more direct case-based practice for students in identifying injuries and discussing with families
  • Expansion of curriculum into other PA programs
  • Analysis of curriculum in MD and NP programs

Qualitative: Intervention Feedback
• Helpful: learning smaller signs of child abuse, “easy cues” to follow in clinic, correlating injuries with ages and areas of the body
• Would like more: information on CPS process, practice on talking to victims/families, more cases