

Evaluation of the Medical Legal Partnership Colorado

Background: Medical-legal partnerships provide legal support within medical settings, addressing social determinants of health with civil legal remedies. The Medical Legal Partnership – Colorado (MLP_CO) integrated into the Salud Family Health Centers in 2014. This project assessed MLP_CO's impact on legal case resolution, satisfaction with legal care, health outcomes, and healthcare utilization among clients.

Methods: The researchers surveyed 49 randomly selected clients that \geq six months past case closure. The survey addressed mental and physical health, satisfaction with legal care, legal outcomes, and healthcare utilization. I attempted to contact each client at least three times at various times and days. Language line interpreters supported when clients had limited English proficiency. MLP_CO provided additional patient and case data. Data analysis included descriptive statistics and paired comparisons between follow-up surveys and intake surveys.

Results: MLP_CO resolved 82% of the cases. The most common legal issue was immigration (60%), followed by public benefits (21%). Health outcomes and the satisfaction response rate was 59%. Most clients ($\geq 86\%$) reported positive interactions with the lawyers. All health outcomes showed improvement with significance achieved days with 1) poor mental health, 2) poor physical health, 3) stress, and 4) worry. Additionally, healthcare utilization reduced, albeit non-significantly. Qualitative analysis revealed the impact of COVID19 and difficulties with communication, especially when needing interpretation.

Conclusions: The MLP-CO legal intervention was associated with improved health outcomes, reduced healthcare utilization, and overall satisfaction. These data support MLP and healthcare integration as a promising intervention to reduce the impact of social determinants of health.