

# Improving Effective Access to Mental Health Evaluation for Non-English-Speaking Trauma Survivors (NESTS): The NESTS Pathway

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#### **Problem Statement**

- Health disparities for populations from under-represented minorities, including the Hispanic and Latinx communities, have been well documented in traumatic injuries
- Among trauma survivors, non-English speaking patients are particularly vulnerable as the barriers they encounter go beyond the complexities of the health system and access to care, they also face cultural and language barriers
- As a result, compared to English-speaking trauma survivors, Spanish-speaking trauma survivors with depressive, anxiety, and/or posttraumatic stress symptoms are less likely to receive a mental health evaluation after injury (10% vs. 36%), affecting their outcomes and successful reintegration into work, school, and the community.



#### Aim Statement

Increase the percentage of Spanish-speaking trauma survivors with high risk of mental health symptoms that access a mental health evaluation and/or community-based resources to support their recovery from 10% to 30% by December 1, 2022.



- We hired a Spanish-speaking Community Health Worker who is assisting Spanish-speaking traumatic injury survivors with healthcare navigation and facilitating their connection to mental health and/or community resources to support their recovery
- We developed a mechanism to systematically screen for social determinants of health and the risk of mental health symptoms in Spanish-speaking traumatic injury survivors at BWH/MGH





 We created a video and pamphlet (in Spanish) to increase awareness of post-injury mental health symptoms and introduce the NESTS pathway to trauma survivors at BWH and MGH

#### **NESTS Video**

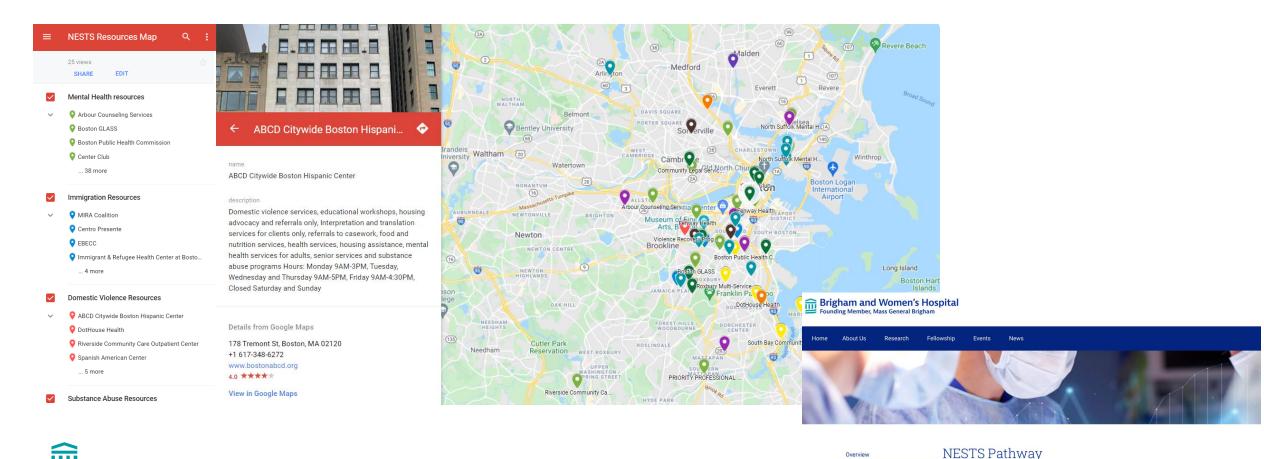








• We created an interactive map/bank of community resources available to Spanish-speaking traumatic injury survivors. This map/bank is now available online: <a href="https://csph.brighamandwomens.org/nests/nests-map/">https://csph.brighamandwomens.org/nests/nests-map/</a>



NESTS Resources Man

Funded by the MGB United Against Racism initiative, this project will create a new post-discharge clinical and behavioral health pathway entitled "The NESTS Pathway." The primary goal of this pathway will be to increase rates of outpatient mental health evaluation for non-English speaking survivors of traumatic injury dealing with symptoms of

• We made available to patients the Jeenie's mobile platform (on-demand language assistance) after hospital discharge to facilitate their connection with mental health and community-based resources







### Year 1 Accomplishments – Process Metrics

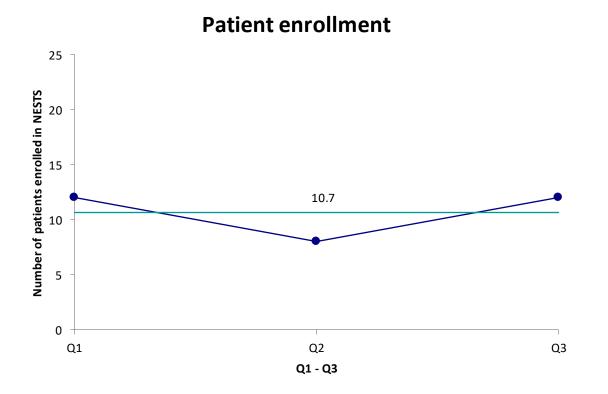
The NESTS Pathway officially launched in January and April 2022 at BWH and MGH, respectively 32 patients are enrolled in the pathway as of end of September 2022

Q1= Jan-Mar; Q2= Apr-Jun; Q3= Jul-Sep

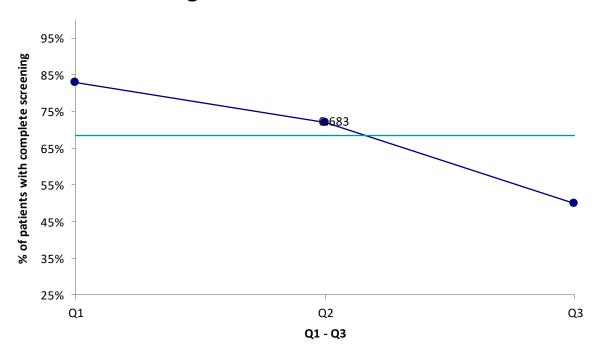
- % of potentially eligible patients enrolled in the pathway: 45% (since Q1)
- % of patients approached that were enrolled in the pathway: 80% (Since Q3)
- % of patients with a complete screening and baseline risk assessment: 68% (since Q1)
- % of patients that have received/viewed the educational material
  - Pamphlet: 100% (since Q2)
  - Video: **100%** (*since Q3*)
- % of patients that have utilized the Jeenie App: 50% (since Q3)



## Year 1 Accomplishments – Process Metrics



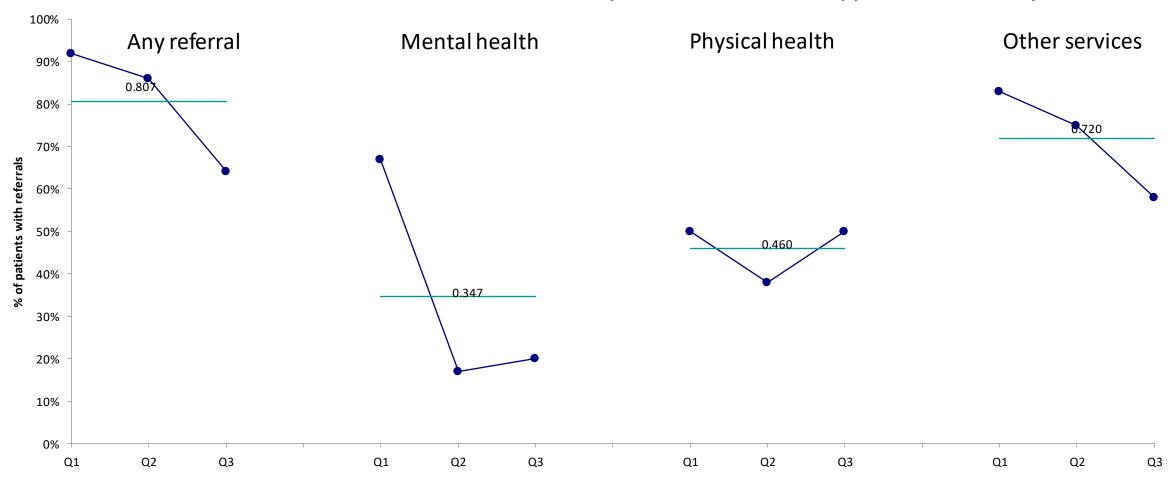
#### Screening and baseline risk assessment





### Year 1 Accomplishments – Clinical Outcome Metrics

#### Patient referrals and connection with community-based resources to support their recovery





### Year 1 Accomplishments – Clinical Outcome Metrics

- Food (fair food, fresh food, and SNAP)
- Housing
- Transportation
- Mental health (Spanish speaking therapist, SUD support)
- Physical therapy
- Vaccines (Shingles, COVID-19)
- English classes
- Job applications

- Qualitative feedback
- Support to family members

- Immigration resources
- Cash assistance (bills, newborn citizen)
- Mass Health application
- Health Safety Net application
- Application for disability
- Elderly day programs
- Home health
- Assistance scheduling follow-up appointments
- Supplies (Pampers, diapers)



## Year 1 Challenges

- Enrolling patients into the NESTS pathway has been hindered by the availability of our CHW
  who is working on the project part-time and has an active caseload outside of NESTS
- Identifying eligible patients at MGH
- Completing screenings at the bedside
- Logistical and technological issues (i.e., CHW doesn't have a pager, familiarity of staff with the project, data capture and documentation)
- Limited options for referrals to patients currently in immigration processes
- Availability of resources/providers, regarding mental health



# Looking Ahead: Plans for Year 2

- We will continue to make improvements to processes, materials, and tools to facilitate the work of the community health worker
- We will consider adding new components to the pathway based on the areas we have identified as having the greatest need for patients
- We will work on finalizing the NESTS Pathway website and developing a variety of patient resources about Jeenie, including videos
- Start discussion on strategic plan for year 3 and beyond. Trauma quality-of-life clinic?



# Mass General Brigham