

INTRODUCTION

Social needs account for as much as 80% of health outcomes.¹ Many healthcare providers across Georgia face challenges in connecting patients to resources and organizations within their local networks. As a free, service-learning, primary care mobile clinic in our county, we serve patients with significant unmet social needs. We have compiled a reproducible guide that organizes a directory of over 150 local non-profits directly addressing our patients' health-related social needs.

METHODS

The Athens Resource Guide (ARG) is made available to incoming medical students and highlighted throughout the Community Population Health Curriculum. We collected baseline data from medical students to determine their knowledge of and confidence in providing access to the many organizations serving their new community. We plan to survey them again at the end of the year after using the ARG to evaluate their perceptions of knowledge and confidence.

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Example excerpt of ARG Table of Contents.

Law/Legal

Community Health Law Partnership Clinic (Community HeLP)
Legal services clinic in which law students engage in interdisciplinary advocacy on behalf of low-income clients with a variety of health-harming legal needs.

Georgia Legal Services Program
A non-profit law firm offering free legal services in civil cases to people who cannot afford to hire a lawyer. The Athens location provides special focus on serving the growing Latino population, serving rural victims of domestic violence, and addressing needs of homeless people in Athens.

Public Defender Office
The public defender's office represents indigent individuals who have pending criminal charges or juvenile court cases in Athens-Clarke County and Oconee County.

Example excerpt of ARG section on law and legal resources.

Food

Athens Area Emergency Food Bank
Provides emergency food assistance to supply nutritious meals to local families and individuals in need who live in Athens-Clarke County.

Athens Senior Hunger Coalition
An initiative aimed at combating senior hunger in the Athens area through programs and partnerships between local organizations who share the goal of ending hunger.

Food Bank of Northeast Georgia
Works toward ending hunger by recovering donated food and distributing it to more than 200 non-profit human service agencies in 20 counties.

Food 2 Kids
A program of the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia that alleviates hunger by providing free food sacks to children who are in jeopardy of not having enough to eat during the weekend.

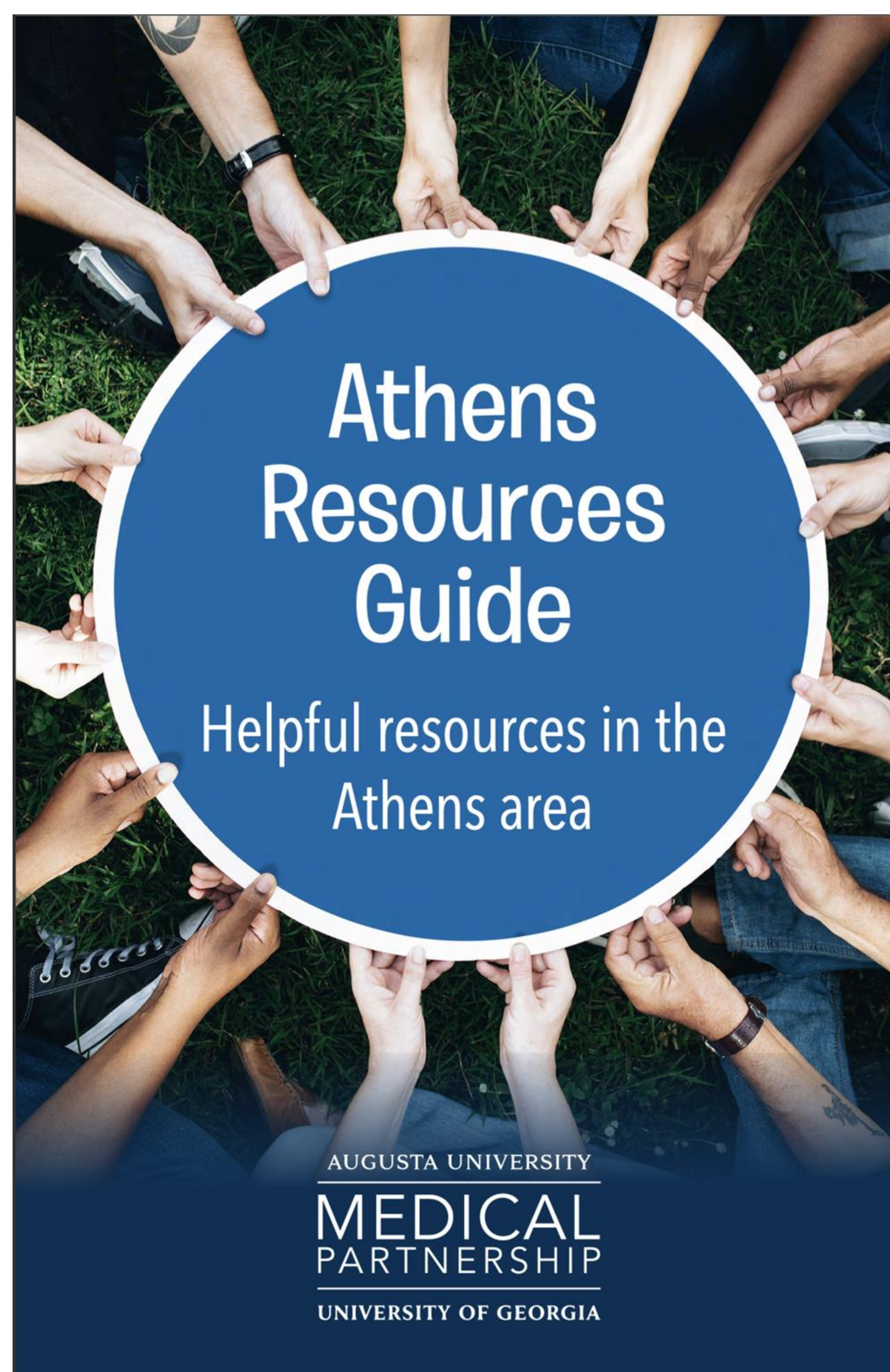
Example excerpt of ARG (part of a larger section on food resources).

RESULTS

- When medical students begin their first year of medical school, **only 15.4% feel confident** in their ability to **help patients access local resources for health-related social needs** (related to social determinants of health).
- For first year medical students at the beginning of their experiences caring for patients, **only 12% are familiar with the local resources in Athens-Clarke County for health-related social needs** (related to social determinants of health).
- We predict that students who have access to the Athens Resource Guide will report increased exposure to local healthcare resources and increased confidence in their ability to coordinate with those organizations.

Baseline data, before introduction of Athens Local Resource Guide. M1s surveyed in week 2 of medical school. n=52 respondents out of class size of 60 medical students.

	I feel confident in my ability to help patients access local resources for health-related social needs (related to social determinants of health).	percentage		I am familiar with the local resources in Athens-Clarke County for health-related social needs (related to social determinants of health).	percentage	
Strongly Agree total:	1	1.9%	15.4%	1	2.0%	12.0%
Agree total:	7	13.5%		5	10.0%	
Neither agree nor disagree total:	26	50.0%	50.0%	10	20.0%	20.0%
Disagree total:	14	26.9%		18	36.0%	
Strongly Disagree total:	4	7.7%	34.6%	16	32.0%	68.0%
Total respondents	52			50		



Cover page of the Athens Resource Guide.

References

1. Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP. Medicaid's role in addressing social determinants of health. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Feb. 1, 2019. <https://www.rwjf.org/>

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DOWNLOAD THE GUIDE HERE

