

St. Mary's Health Clinics FY 2021-22 Summary Report

The overall health of the low-income Spanish-speaking community served by St. Mary's Health Clinics (SMHC) has been and continues to be disproportionately harmed by the pandemic, and in too many cases their basic material safety has become jeopardized. The unending emergency conditions of the pandemic experienced by exhausted SMHC staff and volunteers has affected morale, and SMHC has added paid front-line staff to reinforce programming after it became clear that medical volunteers are not returning to pre-COVID levels as hoped for. At the same time, the "temporary" services SMHC added to programming in response to the pandemic (public information, emergency assistance, referrals for care, testing, and coordinating large Spanish-language vaccination events.

Meanwhile, SMHC patients are also facing incredible levels of stress because of COVID's highly disproportionate effects on their community. Although SMHC provided more program services related to behavioral health and building emotional resilience, there has been a clear increase in instances of abuse, depression, anxiety, addictions and disorders. These conditions are all negatively associated with outcomes for long-term health conditions, particularly ones involving chronic diseases that have been placed at the core of SMHC's programming such as diabetes and hypertension.

In 2021-22 there were **5,411** individual patient/provider visits made by **2,415** patients across **998** total SMHC Clinic sessions, through five physical sites and online. In total, SMHC provided \$114,688 worth of specialty care for patients through outside referrals and more than **\$580,000** in donated prescription medications.

Screening for hypertension was provided to **1,443**, and **267** were included in SMHC's more intensive programming for hypertension and heart diseases. Receiving focused treatment for either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes were **349** adult patients, **172** of whom were also screened for diabetic retinopathy – blindness associated with high levels of blood sugar. Through expanded programming and additional public health communications, a total of **403** adults were provided with nutrition counseling and dietary information relative to their individual conditions and risk factors. Another **50** patients suffering from asthma were provided prescription medication and prevention resources. Through medical system partnerships, **181** women received screening for breast and/or cervical cancers. **224** adults received treatment and/or medication for emotional health issues and there were **638** referrals for specialty care from ophthalmology, OB/GYN, gastrointestinal and rheumatology

More than **20,000** community members received information and assistance accessing services about prevention and management of chronic disease, influenza and COVID-19, mental health, oral health and dental services, and **100%** SMHC patients were provided with screening and culturally specific health engagement with a focus on prevention and mitigation of chronic disease as it applies to their plan of treatment and case management.

SMCH's collaboration with government agencies continued to play an increasingly active role in limiting public transmission and severity of COVID as well as disseminating important public health information in a culturally specific way. The State of Minnesota Department of Health, Ramsey County Public Health Department, the City of Minneapolis, the Consulate of Ecuador in Minneapolis and the Mexican Consulate in St. Paul each partnered with SMHC at various points to plan and coordinate COVID services and response including free, fully bilingual public COVID-19 screenings, testing with direct individual follow-up, reporting and vaccinating.

In total, SMHC coordinated nine COVID testing events in 2021-22 and a remarkable total of **110** COVID vaccination events resulting in **5,215** COVID vaccination doses. Meanwhile, relief from St. Mary's Emergency Assistance Fund (SEAF) reached **188** of SMHC households, providing **\$84,291.54** in living expenses to help families severely affected by COVID to maintain stability.

Thank You!

Our work providing free medical care, outreach and education to low-income and uninsured families and individuals who are not eligible for government programs is made possible through the generous support of hundreds of individuals, medical practitioners and organizations. For your support we say thank you. We also thank our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet whose “pursuit of Love of God and love of neighbor without distinction” informs our shared commitment to serve “Our Dear Neighbors.”