

**FLINT HILLS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
Emporia, Kansas**

Mission: To promote the health and well-being of the entire community

**Testimony presented
To
House Health and Human Services Committee
March 3, 2005
1:30 pm**

**by
Lougene Marsh, Executive Director**

Thanks to Representative Peggy Mast for the invitation to testify.

Thanks to Chairman Morrison and the committee members for affording me this opportunity to speak with you today about the work of Flint Hills Community Health Center (FHCHC), in Emporia, Kansas. The area served by FHCHC is indeed fortunate to have Representatives Mast and Hill serving on this committee and representing the interests of not only their constituents but all Kansans in the important health and health care issues facing our state.

Long before applying for funds to establish a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), the Lyon County Health Department had been working to increase access to primary health care services for residents of Lyon County. With the receipt of federal funding in 1997, Lyon County Health Department expanded its primary care clinic. The FQHC does business as Flint Hills Community Health Center and provides comprehensive family health services for all ages and stages of life, including preventative services, acute care services and management of chronic diseases. Our in-house lab can provide basic lab services, and through an arrangement with Newman Regional Health, other lab and radiology services are available to our patients. Because of our organizational relationship and co-location with Lyon County Health Department, our center's patients have immediate access to immunizations, family planning and other core public health services, including the Women, Infant and Children nutrition program (WIC).

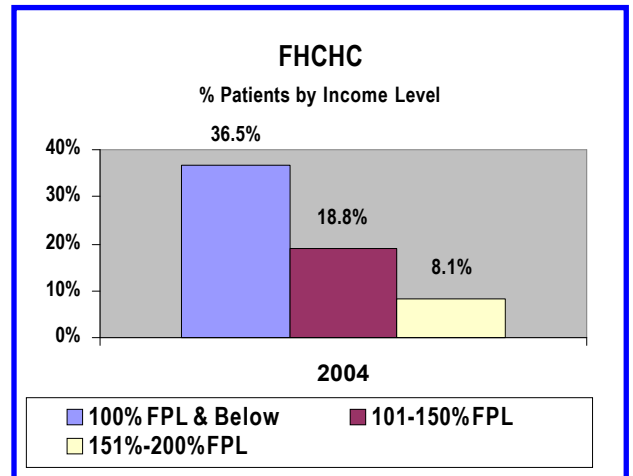
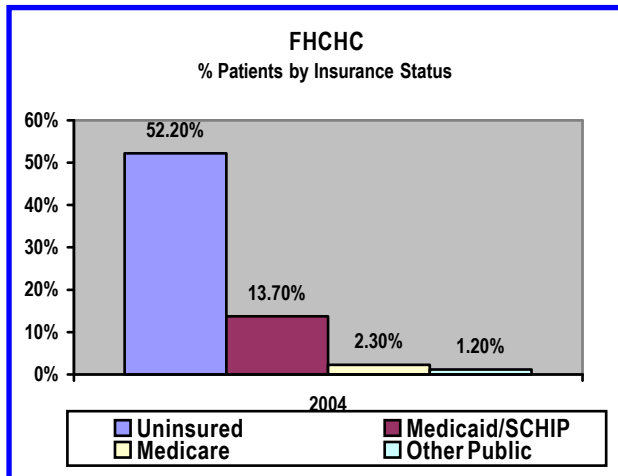
From those early years, the health center has grown and added services:

- Dental Clinic in 2000
- Behavioral Health Services in 2002

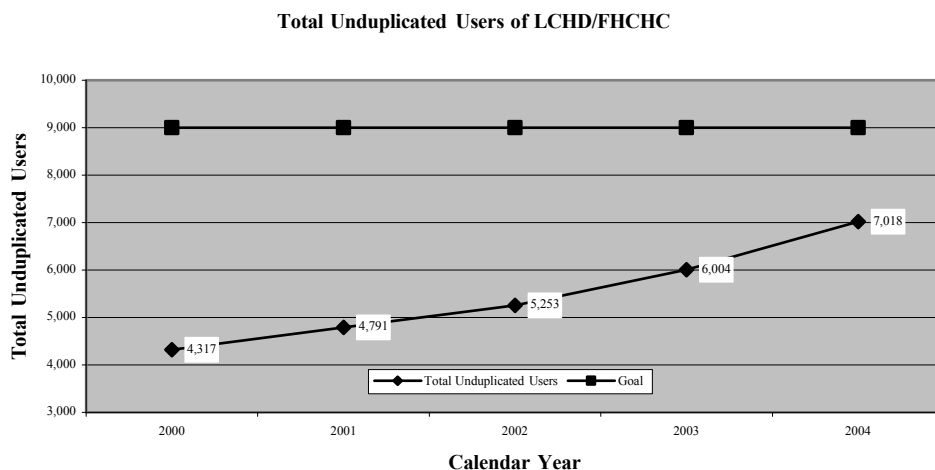
Flint Hills Community Health Center provides services to uninsured and underserved individuals in Lyon, Chase, Morris and Osage counties. Services are also available to individuals with Medicare, Medicaid, HealthWave and private insurance. Demographic data for the four counties is captured in the table below.

County	Population	Number of Individuals <200% FPL	Number of Individuals <100% FPL	Uninsured	Medicaid/ Health Wave Recipients
Lyon	35,560	12,724	4,801	5,630	4,950 / 700
Chase	3,033	977	485	315	393 / 42
Greenwood	7,771	2,680	1,205	810	1,291 / 213
Osage	16,903	4,398	1,708	1,637	2,223 / 361
Total	63,267	20,779	8,199	8,392	8,857/1,316

- Significant socioeconomic demographics for individuals served in 2004 include:
 - 52.2% uninsured
 - 36.5% under 100% of Federal Poverty Level
 - 64% under 200% of Federal Poverty Level
 - 44% Hispanic reflecting Emporia's growing Hispanic population
 - 23% requiring language assistance

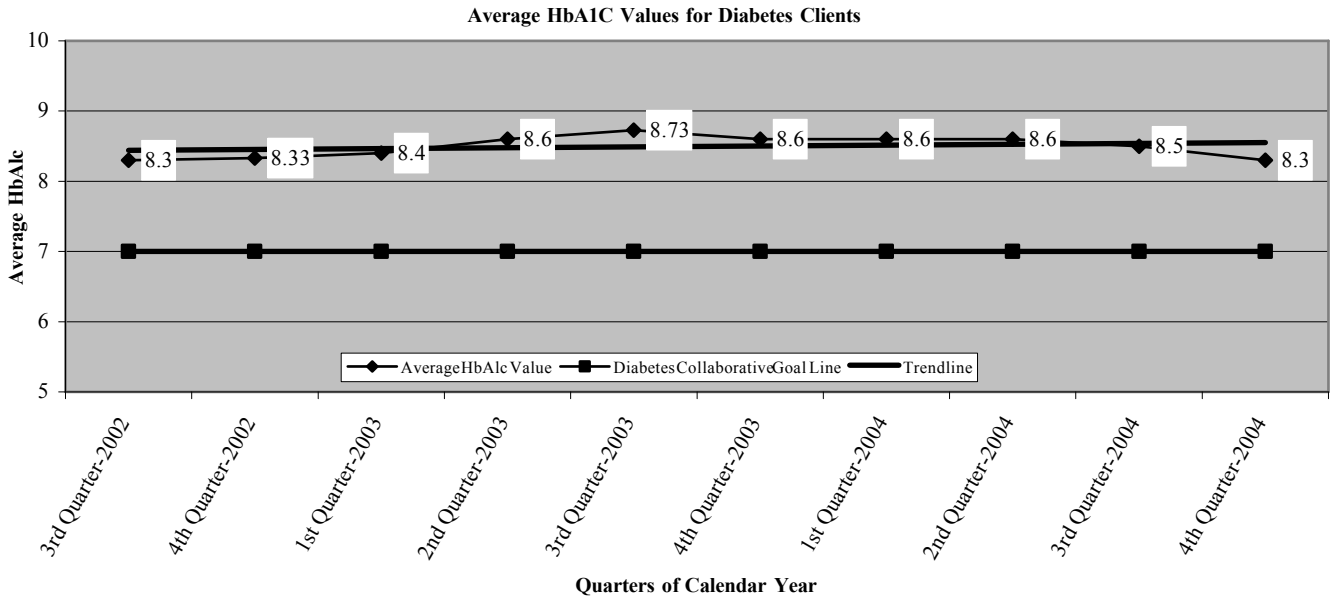


Increasing access is one of the core measurements of our success as an FQHC. In 2004, our center served 7,018 patients with 23,117 visits. The table below demonstrates the steady growth accomplished:



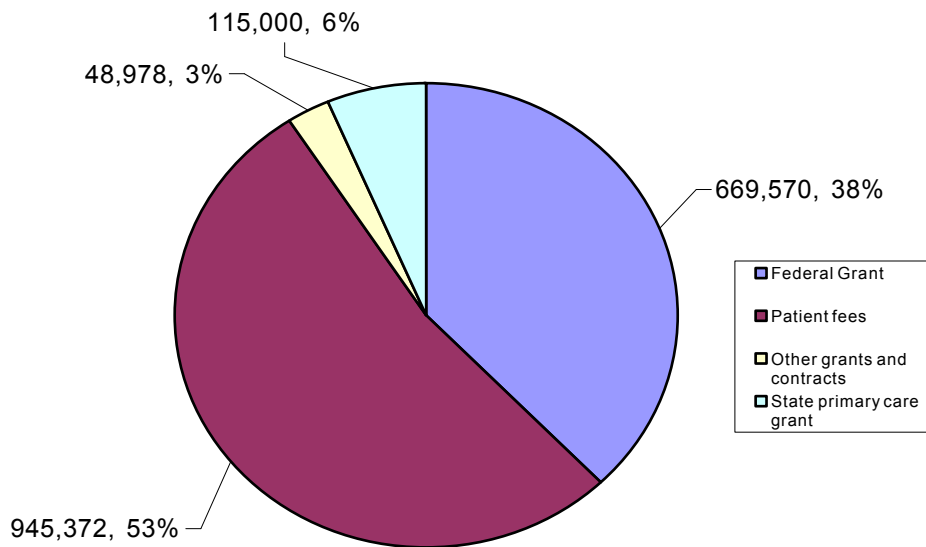
Reducing health disparities is another key component of our efforts. Flint Hills Community Health Center is engaged in the Bureau of Primary Health Care's Health Disparities Collaborative with a focus on three chronic diseases: Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease, and Depression. Client outcomes related to these disease entities are tracked and patients are encouraged to be actively engaged in the management of the

disease. The table below demonstrates the type of information that is tracked and monitored to assure quality of care.



What is the fiscal picture?

- Federal grant: \$931,424
- Patient fees (third parties and self-pay): \$669,570
- Other grants and contracts: \$48,978
- State Primary Care Grant: \$115,000



- For every state dollar represented by the state Primary Care Grant, \$15.50 additional revenue has been leveraged.
- In 2004: \$822,605 of uncompensated care was provided (difference between the charge for the service and the amount billed to the client based on sliding fees)

What are the ongoing challenges?

- Recruiting and maintaining health care professionals, especially dentists and dental hygienists
- Maintaining a competitive wage scale
- Spreading our services to physical locations in Chase, Greenwood, and Osage counties. (2004 initiative: Telemedicine in partnership with Chase County Health Department)

What are the future opportunities?

- Additional state investment will allow the safety net to grow and be strengthened
- Support for Senate Bill 84 will encourage all FQHCs in Kansas to pursue a prescription drug service expansion through the 340B Drug Pricing program. This program allows FQHC patients to access pharmaceuticals at a greatly reduced rate, generally about 51% less than the average wholesale price.
- Support for Senate Bill 84 will also enhance the resources of FQHCs and the rest of the safety net clinics across Kansas to assist patients with access to Pharmacy Assistance Program, sponsored by pharmaceutical manufacturers. Access to these programs is administratively complex, but patient needs are well served by these efforts. In January, 2005 FHCHC patients accessed 168 prescriptions through these programs with a market value of \$47,433.

Health care cost and health care access are compelling issues that are driving costs in both the private and public sector. Federally Qualified Health Centers are a key piece of the complex puzzle for increasing access, increasing quality of care, and holding down costs.

Thank you for your current and future support of our efforts and thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.