

# Collaborating with Schools and Public Health Agencies to Provide Healthcare to New Immigrants in Minnesota

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## INTRODUCTION

- Minnesota has seen a recent influx of new Spanish speaking immigrants from Central and South America.
- Mobile clinics are a uniquely adaptable model of healthcare that can meet newcomers where they are (pop up clinics) rather than waiting until they present to emergency departments.
- Hennepin Healthcare System (HHS) Pediatric Mobile Clinic (PMC) partners with Minneapolis Public Schools, PICA/Head Start centers, Raices Latina, and MN Department of Health to provide care at emergency shelters, schools, and community-based organizations (CBOs).
- PMC provides pediatric primary care, vaccines, screenings, addresses social needs, and connects families to specialty care and community resources as needed.

## METHODS

Through chart reviews, the team described:  
1) Trends in newcomer population growth across HHS pediatric clinics-

For eight HHS pediatric clinic over four years, reviewed data of 'initial patient visit' encounters for charts identified as Spanish speaking

2) PMC care of newcomers at pop-up clinics-

Retrospective chart review of known newcomer encounters at PMC pop up clinics over one year (July 2023-July 2024). Assessed volume, demographics, top diagnoses and referrals of newcomers receiving care at PMC's pop-up community clinics.

Newcomer is defined as a patient who has been in the United States for less than 5 years and does not have an established primary care provider.

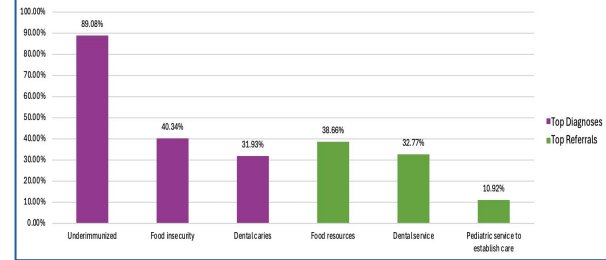
## RESULTS

- By using 'Spanish speaking initial visit encounter' as a proxy for newcomers, data shows this population increased for 6 of 8 HHS clinics over the past four years.
- In the past one year, PMCH pop up clinics saw 119 newcomers. Of these patients, 87 had been in the United States for less than a year.
- Notable consistencies among country of origin, top diagnoses and top referrals:
  - 67.23% (80) of patients were originally from Ecuador and 17.65% (21) were originally from Mexico.
  - The most common diagnosis was underimmunization (106; 89.08%) with all 106 patients receiving immunizations at their visit.
  - Other common diagnoses include food insecurity (48; 40.34%) and dental caries (38; 31.93%). Most common referrals made were food resources (46; 38.66%) and dental service (39; 32.77%). Another common referral was to the pediatric service to establish care (13; 10.92%).
- There were 65 other patients seen who were likely new immigrants but there was not enough information in the chart to confirm their country of origin or the time frame of their immigration.

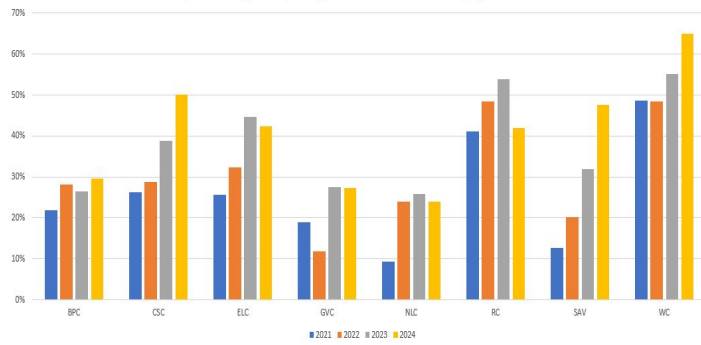
## CONCLUSIONS

- Health systems can be strained in caring for newcomer populations
- Mobile clinics can help offset this strain.
- Through its partnership with schools, CBOs, and public health agencies, mobile clinics are a valuable resource caring for newcomers.
- The HHS PMC has addressed many cases of underimmunization, food insecurity, and dental caries in the past year.
- Electronic health records can benefit from more accurate tools to identify recent immigration status in order to better direct patient care and allocate healthcare resources.

Top Diagnoses and Referrals of Newcomer Patients Seen in the Pop-up Clinic



Trend in Population of Spanish-speaking 'Initial Visit' Patients Seen by Eight HHS Clinic and Year



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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