

**Poster Session II  
# 2**

***Characterization of Outcomes Data for Patients Utilizing an Indigent Medical Clinic***

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The purpose of this study was to collect and characterize health care data of the indigent population in Paterson, NJ. The theoretical framework used for this study was Pender's Health Belief Model. The methods included characterization using an automated Microsoft Access database system collecting pertinent patient data before and after each encounter. The setting was a free-standing indigent medical clinic—one of five offering free medical care in NJ. The results are as follows: of the 1077 visits characterized over a 9 month period, visits included chronic disease, infection, and minor traumatic injuries. The most prevalent chronic conditions were hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and arthritis. Common acute infections included bronchitis, dermatitis, sinusitis, URI and UTI. Chronic infection such as HIV, herpes, hepatitis, and tuberculosis, along with traumatic conditions such as strains, sprains, and spasms were also treated. The primary management of these conditions included: anti-hypertensive and diabetic agents, inhalers, prednisone, and ibuprofen. A variety of oral and topical antibiotics were also prescribed or dispensed. A surprisingly small percent of the data reflected mental health. Due to the large numbers of acute, chronic and preventative needs of the population of interest, there are a number of conclusions and implications. Expanding the database to include a consistent system for screening for mental health disorders is proposed as is the implementation of EMR. Other future recommendations include partnering with local hospitals and medical centers, BOH Departments, university medical and nursing programs, businesses and pharmacies. The relational database that was created will allow for the future planning and expansion of primary and preventative health care services. Characterizing the patient population will also assist the multidisciplinary health care team with future grant submissions and in reporting outcomes. Nurses and advanced practice nurses play a key role in the provision of health care services to the indigent. The results of this characterization study will foster meeting these demands.