



## Cherry Street Health Services fares well in national study of community health centers

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By **Sue Thoms | sthoms1@mlive.com**

GRAND RAPIDS, MI –**Cherry Street Health Services** outperformed national averages in five of six areas of quality of care measured in an analysis of **federally funded community health centers**.

Patients at the center were more likely to have their blood pressure under control, get timely prenatal care, receive childhood immunizations and undergo screening for cervical cancer, and they were less likely to have babies of low birth weight.

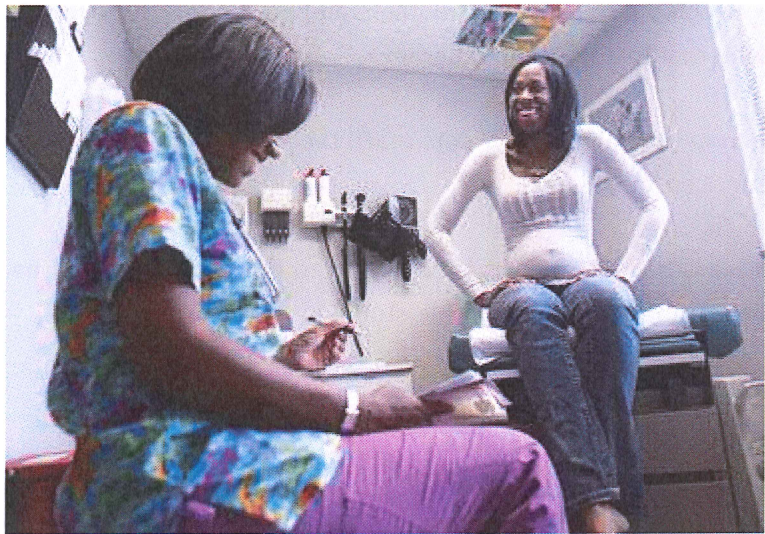
The center fell short of the national average in the percent of patients with diabetes under control.

The findings are included in a report on 1,200 community health centers by **Kaiser Health News and USA Today**. The report found hundreds of the centers lagged national averages for health care in the six key areas. The centers in the South fared worse than those in the Midwest, New England and California.

The centers are under pressure to improve care, as they are expected to help meet the needs of 30 million more Americans who will qualify for Medicaid in 2014 under national health care reform.

Chris Shea, Cherry Street Health Service's Chief Executive Officer, said the organization is committed to delivering care as good as any in the community.

"Even though Cherry Street ranks above the national average on these measures, Cherry Street will continue to improve our outcomes in these six measures and other measures that track quality of care for patients we serve," he said.



Emily Zoladz | The Grand Rapids Press

Sheena Jenkinson-Jones, 23, of Kentwood talks with Dr. Karla Hemphill-Harris during a prenatal check-up in September at Cherry Street Health Services.

Cherry Street merged in October with Touchstone innovare and Proaction Behavioral Health Alliance to provide comprehensive physical and mental health services at 25 sites around the state. The organization is working on several initiatives to improve care, said Dr. Thomas Platt, chief medical officer:

- Improve control of diabetes through diabetic educators who work closely with providers and patients
- Standardize prenatal care throughout the organization
- Implement electronic health records to provide better tracking of patients' health
- Reach out to expectant mothers and new moms through Maternity Outpatient Medical Services and the Maternal Infant Health Program
- Help hypertensive patients reach their blood pressure target through a patient safety and pharmacy clinical services initiative

Here is how Cherry Street compared to national averages. The figures show the percent of patients that met benchmarks measured in the study:

**Diabetes control**

Cherry Street: 72.86 percent

National average: 87.6

**Timely prenatal care**

Cherry Street: 69.22

National average: 68.3

**Hypertension control**

Cherry Street: 68.57

National average: 50.1

**Low birth weight**

Cherry Street: 6.57

National average: 8.3

**Childhood immunizations**

Cherry Street: 82.86

National average: 67

**Cervical cancer screening**

Cherry Street: 78.57

National average: 75.1

Email Sue Thoms at [sthoms1@mlive.com](mailto:sthoms1@mlive.com) and follow her on Twitter at [twitter.com/suethoms](https://twitter.com/suethoms)

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