

This portion of the requested page has been blocked.
[Click here for details.](#)

Supervisors Invite Residents To 'Tri-District' Budget Listening Session

to search, type and hit ente

LOCAL NEWS

NATIONAL NEWS

WORLD NEWS

VIDEO NEWS

PERSPECTIVES

MORE

You are here: [Home](#)

[Archives](#)

[Nearly half of costly emergency department visits avoidable](#)

Nearly half of costly emergency department visits avoidable

Written by admin // February 17, 2012 // 0 Comments

With sick season now in high gear, area emergency departments are likely to be overwhelmed by patients. But nearly half of costly visits are avoidable by a primary care physician.

Sixty percent of avoidable emergency department visits take place in ten Milwaukee zip codes with the highest rate of poverty. The vast majority of the population in these zip codes are uninsured, underinsured or on Medicaid.

Progressive Community Health Centers, formerly Westside Healthcare Association, provides a quality, cost-effective alternative to emergency departments.

Through their Hillside Family Health Center and Lisbon Avenue Health Center clinics, Progressive reaches people in six of these zip codes who are in a personal financial situation.

A rough estimate of the avoidable emergency department expense in 2007-2008 for low-income patients was a staggering \$80,000 per patient, or \$800, excluding physician fees. A comprehensive visit to a primary care doctor at a Progressive clinic is less than a quarter of an emergency department visit.

What's more, at Progressive a patient receives more extensive services than an emergency room visit, where only the urgent needs are addressed. At Progressive, the first visit is the start of a relationship with a primary care physician. Practitioners are dedicated to the immediate care of patients' concerns and various lifestyle issues that affect long-term health and overall wellbeing.

The clinics currently serve over 8,500 patients. With the recent hiring of additional physicians, capacity has increased. "It is important to have a primary care physician. We provide high quality, personalized health care and won't turn anyone away," said Jenni Sevenich, CEO of Progressive.

The Hillside and Lisbon Avenue clinics' comprehensive services include: adult medicine, pediatric medicine, women's health, dental services, and referral services.