### Characteristics of Community Health Clinics

- **Focus on access**
- **Combine primary, preventive, enabling, and public health services and activities**
- **Located in underserved areas**
- **Services without regard to ability to pay**
- **Community-based—required board with majority of members program beneficiaries**

### Structure of the CHC Program

- **Categorical**
- **Discretionary**
- **Part of the Public Health Service Act**
- **Administered by Bureau of Primary Health Care, HRSA**
- **Funds from federal to local level**
- **Link to National Health Service Corps**

### Primary Health Care Services

- **Health services related to family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, or gynecology**
- **Diagnostic laboratory and radiology services**
- **Preventive health services**
- **Emergency medical services**
- **Pharmacy services**

- **Referrals to substance abuse and mental health service providers**
- **Case management**
- **Enabling services, such as transportation and translation services**
- **Health education**
- **Special projects, e.g., elderly, school-based clinics**
Community Health Centers: Holly Grason, MA

### Evaluation of Health Centers—Some Findings

- Improved access
- Reduced hospitalization
- Reduced ED use
- Increased use of preventive services
- Improved health status; reductions in health disparities

### Summing Up: CHCs ...

- Provide primary health care to residents of communities in medically underserved areas
- Reflect the period of their inception (1960s) - the CHC program is administered as a categorical grant program with highly defined parameters and funds flowing from the federal government directly to community organizations
- In recent decades in particular, have doubled in number and have served as a major strategy to address disparities in health care access
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Please take a moment to evaluate this lecture. Your feedback is very important and will be used for future revisions. The Evaluation link is available on the lecture page.