Mission:
To improve and maintain the health of individuals and families in the Merrimack Valley by providing a network of high quality, comprehensive health care services and by training health care professionals to respond to the needs of a culturally diverse population.

My Involvement:
1) Work with AHEC to create a pipeline program to get disadvantaged students in the Greater Lawrence area interested in medicine.
2) Conduct substance abuse outreach with the GLFHC prevention and education department.
3) Assist in the development of a quality improvement program to improve linkage to and retention in care for HIV patients.

Target population:
- Total area = 7 square miles
- Lawrence, MA population of around 77,000
- 73.8% Hispanic/Latino
- 28.6% below poverty level

Challenges:
- Significant stigma against HIV, Substance abuse, and Homosexuality makes treatment difficult
- Lack of Mental Health Services
- HIV prevalence rate nearly double the Massachusetts Average
- Significant prevalence of substance abuse. IV drug use is of particular concern

References:
www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/aids/.../city-lawrence.doc
http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/25/2534550.html
http://glfhc.org/site/about-glfhc/glfhc-history/

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