Population Health Clerkship 2013: Worcester Department of Public Health

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Our population of focus:
- Total population of 181,045 in Worcester (2010)
- Median household income of $47,415
- 19% of residents live below the poverty level

Worcester: Healthiest city in New England by 2020
- A clear goal with concrete aims provides the department with focus going forward
- Allows for efficient use of limited city resources

Community Health Assessment:
- Epidemiological analysis of Worcester and surrounding communities on a number of health measures
- Topics include diet, activity, drug use, childhood asthma, diabetes, and hypertension

Emergency Preparedness:
- Coordinate inter-institutional community resources to respond to a disaster
- Run disaster simulations to maintain readiness for response to a variety of disasters
- Practice emergency immunization protocols with the Medical Reserve Corps

Community Health Improvement Plan:
- A concrete plan aimed at health prevention and long-term care
- 5 domains of focus to improve the health of the city
  - Healthy Eating/Active Living (72% of adults in Worcester are overweight)
  - Behavioral Health (18.6% of 12th graders have abused prescription drugs in their lifetime)
  - Primary Care and Wellness (11% of adults have asthma and 8% have diabetes)
  - Violence and Injury Prevention (11.9% of high school students report having carried a gun to school)
  - Health Equity & Health Disparities (32% of Blacks and 25% of Hispanics report feeling discriminated against by health professionals)

Community Influenza Clinic:
- DPH promotes community immunity initiative
- Offers free flu clinics for all 6 members of the Central Mass Regional Public Health Alliance
- Staffed by community volunteers and Medical Reserve Corps
- Over 160 immunized at the Worcester Flu Clinic and over 230 immunized in Shrewsbury. Over 170 immunized in surrounding communities.

Inspectional Services:
- Inspects food establishments, housing units, and monitors air and water quality
- Responds to complaints from the community
- Important for maintaining an acceptable level of cleanliness and ensuring public health
- If deficiencies are found, inspectors ensure that violations are remedied in a timely manner

For more information, please visit www.worcesterma.gov/ocm/public-health

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