



Worcester Division of Public Health Population Health Clerkship 2015

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The Division of Public Health

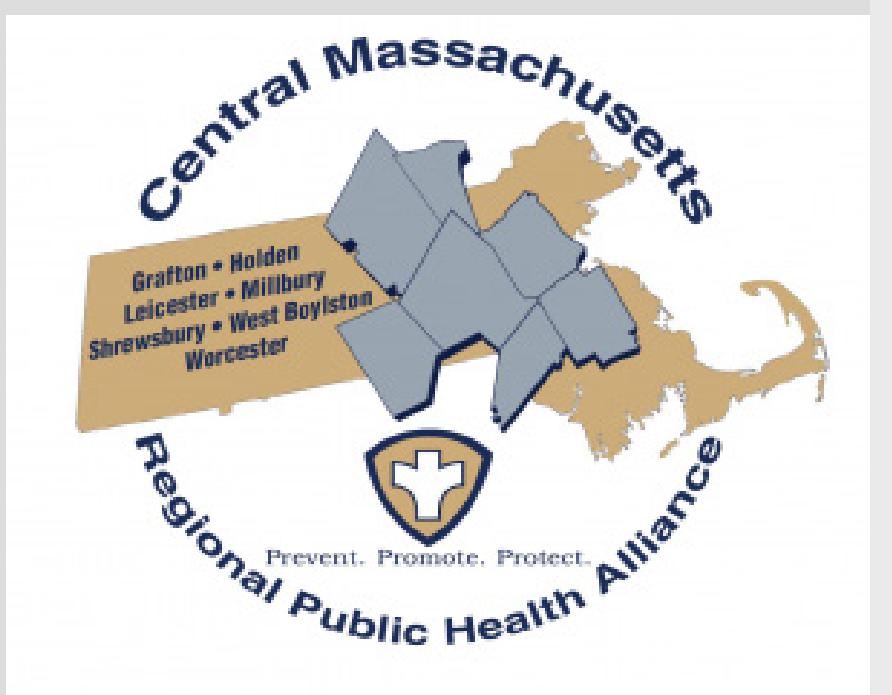
MISSION: "Protect and improve community well-being by preventing disease and injury while promoting social, economic and environmental factors fundamental to health" in Worcester and the alliance towns.

GOAL:

The healthiest you
in the healthiest city
in the healthiest region

#Healthy2020

www.worcesterma.gov/ocm/public-health



Current Projects in the DPH

FIVE DOMAINS

1. **Health Eating/Active Living**
 - ◆ Swimming/Youth summer program
2. **Behavioral Health**
 - ◆ **Opioid Crisis**
 - Youth Prevention
 - Narcan training - Decreased fatality rate in overdoses
 - ◆ **Tobacco:** Dissuade youth from tobacco and e-cigarettes
3. **Primary Care & Wellness**
 - ◆ MAPP – Mobilization Action through Planning and Partnership
 - ◆ Six phase process
4. **Violence & Injury Prevention**
 - ◆ Gun buy back program
5. **Health Equity & Disparities**

Community Experiences

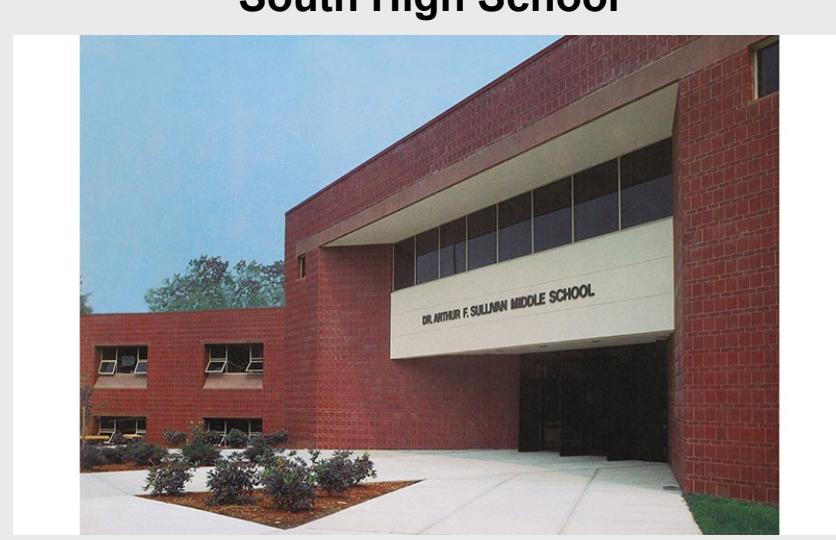
Flu Clinics and Schools

We held flu clinics at Sullivan Middle School and South High School, and continued to spend the rest of the day learning about the services at South High School, including:

- Andy's attic
- Food bank
- Teen mom daycare
- Family Health Center
- Broadway show at Hanover theater

There is a very diverse student population

- Students from 72 countries (ELL)
- Special Education
- Preschool for Autism



Moms Demand Action



Purpose: Stop Gun Violence Epidemic

- Swatches are from victims or survivors of gun violence.
- Quilt is a symbol of human toll of gun violence.
- Brian's story - Brian died of an accidental gunshot fired by his friend. The gun was not securely stored in his friend's house.

SMART Framework

- Secure all guns in your home and vehicles
- Model responsible behavior around guns
- Ask about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes
- Recognize the risks of teen suicide
- Teach your peers to be SMART

Senior Center Fair

This annual event is held for senior citizens across Worcester focusing on the health and well-being of the senior citizens in the community.

- Our group raised awareness about the Free Clinics
- Fall Prevention table
- Vision and Skin Screening
- Blood pressure and glucose reading
- Flu vaccine and Pneumovax
- Interactive Raffle



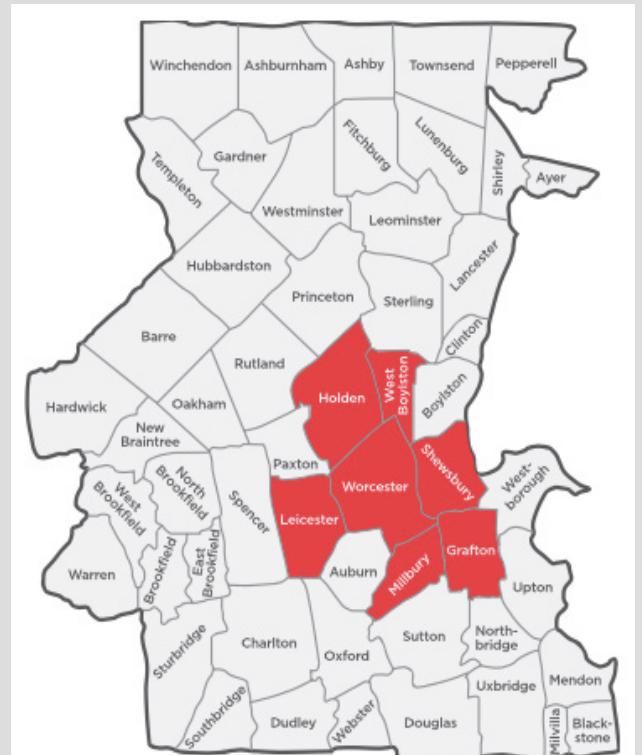
Our Project

Goal: To determine if low income residents in Worcester Health Alliance towns have sufficient access to local primary care providers.

Background: Starting in 2006, Massachusetts decided to regionalize its public health services. The majority of the nation is county-based, but Massachusetts is city-based and thus has 351 individual Boards of Health. With regionalization, Worcester oversees the public health departments of Grafton, Leicester, Millbury, Shrewsbury, West Boylston, and Holden. However, the majority of primary care providers registered in these alliance towns are practicing in Worcester.

Methodology: The Department of Public Health wanted to determine the quality of access to primary care that the residents of alliance towns have, based on the following criteria:

- Accepting new patients
- Accepts Mass Health
- Accessible by Public Transportation
- Wait time for first available appointment



We called all primary care providers in the fields of internal medicine, family medicine, geriatrics, pediatrics, and osteopaths listed for the alliance towns. Mimicking patient-seeking access, we searched for physicians using available public resources such as Google, Healthgrades.com, common insurance websites (BCBS, Aetna), and medical provider websites (Reliant, UMass Memorial, Steward).

Findings:

Based on preliminary investigation, with the exception of Shrewsbury, the majority of the alliance towns have limited access to primary care with no access by public transportation.

- Leicester has no primary care providers.
- Grafton has 2 providers that are accepting new patients with restricted acceptance of Mass Health plans.
- Millbury has 2 offices accepting new patients, with restricted acceptance of Mass Health plans, with the soonest available appointment in January 2016.
- West Boylston has 4 offices accepting new patients, not accepting Mass Health and with a 6 week wait for an appointment.
- Holden has 2 offices accepting new patients, accepting Mass Health with a 2 month wait for an appointment.
- Shrewsbury has 14 offices, but only 5 are accepting new patients. These 5 offices accept Mass Health and are accessible by public transportation, with an average appointment wait of 3 months.