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Mercy Clinic is located in Fort Worth and serves underrepresented minority adults who live in the 76110 and 76104 zip codes near TCU. It provides free care such as wellness visits, routine checkups, and monthly Women's Health Clinics. Through collaboration with the Mercy Clinic staff and medical students at the Burnett School of Medicine, a sustainable approach was taken for the Women's Health Initiative. The Women's Health Initiative aims to maintain and further the clinic's Women's Health program and assist in education. Certain community clinics in the Fort Worth area can face disparities with inadequate funding, limiting the access and quality of patient care. Through the Experimental Projects to Impact the Community (EPIC Grant), provided by the Pre-Health Professions Institute, remedial actions were able to take place for Mercy Clinic, not only improving the quality of patient satisfaction and care but also the sustainability of the clinic by reducing waste. The aid has been able to give access to reusable items such as metal speculums, lighting tools for examinations, and a more efficient way to keep up with patient check-in and management by using laminated paper sheets. This project aimed to aid not only Mercy Clinic but also health disparities in our local community of Fort Worth.

## Mercy Clinic of Fort Worth

Provides free healthcare in South Fort Worth

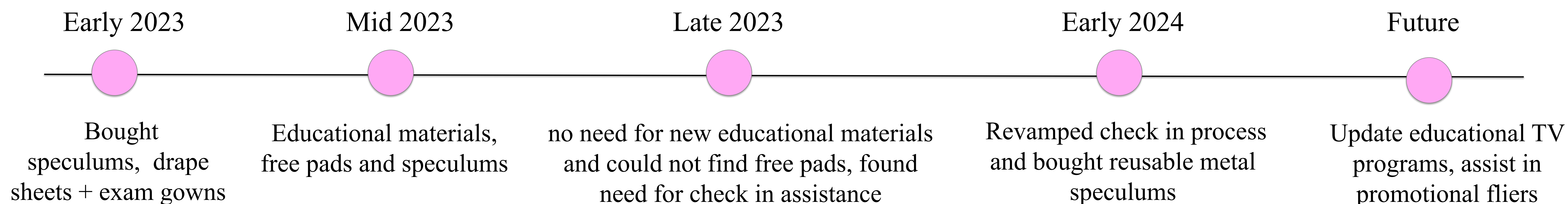
### Services

- Dental
- Medical
- Prescriptions
- Spiritual Care

~2,635 Regular Patients

- 18 years or older
- Live in 76110 or 76104 zip code
- Do not have health insurance
- Income level < 200% of national poverty line

## Timeline



## What We Did

### Materials Purchased

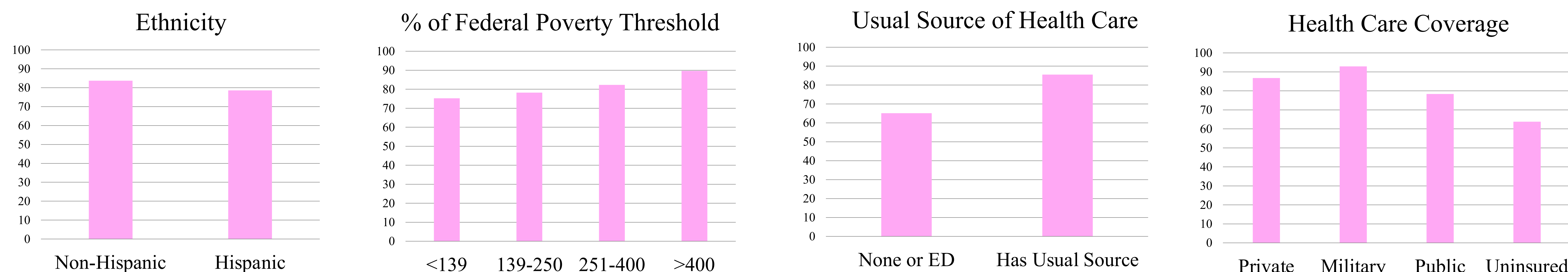
- Metal Speculum in 3 sizes
- Examination lights
- Colored paper to assist in check in



Figure 1: Outside of the Mercy Clinic location. Down the road from TCU.

## National Pap Smear Statistics + Demographic of Women Served

National percentage of women (21-65 years old) who received a pap test within the past 3 years (National Health Interview Survey, U.S., 2015)



## Importance of Women's Health Care

### Cervical Cancer

- In 2019: 12,795 new cases reported, 4,152 deaths. (CDC, 2022)
- Non-Hispanic Black women had highest rate of new cases
- Hispanic women had the highest death rate
- In 2023, 13,960 new cases and 4,310 deaths were expected (American Cancer Society, 2023).

### Pap Smear/Screening: physical exam to test for cervical cancer in women

- Recommended every three to five years for ages 21 to 65 (Mayo Clinic)
- Cervical cancer instances have decreased by more than half since 1970 due to the increase in screening. (American Cancer Society, 2023)

### HPV Vaccination

- HPV vaccinations have been shown to dramatically reduce the risk of invasive cervical cancer (American Cancer Society, 2023).
- Vaccination along with screening can detect cervical cancer early. Half of individuals diagnosed were not previously screened before. (American Cancer Society, 2023)

### 2023

- 37 Women Were Seen
- 100 % of Patients were Hispanic
- Oldest Patient is 73 Years Old
- Youngest Patient is 21 Years Old

### 2024

- 26 Women Were Seen
- 100% of Patients Were Hispanic
- Oldest Patient is 71 Years Old
- Youngest Patient is 21 Years Old

## Acknowledgments

This project was supported by the Pre-Health Professions Institute EPIC (Experiential Projects to Impact the Community) community development grant. We would like to thank Mercy Clinic of Fort Worth for their commitment to serving the community and providing accessible health care. Additionally, we would like to thank Dr. Stewart for serving as our advisor for this project and for her all her guidance. We would like to thank the previous EPIC grant participants Morgan and Allison for all of their hard work. Finally, we would like to thank all the providers and volunteers at the clinics; none of this could have happened with their help.

## References

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