Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

By

Marc E. Babitz, M.D., Director
Division of Family Health & Preparedness
Utah Department of Health
Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

Objectives:

• Review Some Health Care Facts
• Understand the Barriers to Care
• Utah’s Safety Net for Health Care
Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

Some Health Care Facts:

- **Health Care Spending:**
  - U.S. in 2012 = $2.7 Trillion
  - >$8,500/person
  - Growing at 5 – 7% (twice inflation)
Some Health Care Facts:

- **Health Care Spending:**
  - 31% Hospital Care
  - 21.4% Clinical Services (MDs, etc.)
  - 10.3% Prescription Drugs
  - 7% Net cost of private insurance
  - 5.9% Nursing Home care
  - (Public Health = 2.8%)
Some Health Care Facts:

- Physician Manpower
- Critical Issue of Primary vs. Sub-specialty
  - Rest of the World: 60% : 40%
  - U.S.: 30% : 70%
Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

Barriers to Health Care:

1. Financial
2. Geographic
3. Availability
4. Culture and Language
Financial: (will this change with ACA?)

- 376,000 Uninsured Utahns (nearly all adults are working)
- 300,000 Underinsured Utahns (high copays, high deductibles, limited coverage, pre-existing conditions not covered)
Geographic:

- 17% of Utahns are rural
- 83% of Utah is rural
- < 9% of Utah’s physicians are rural
Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

Geographic: Utah

- Primary Care Physicians vs Population
- Rural: 54/100,000 persons
- Urban: 72/100,000 persons

(Note: U.S. has 90.5/100,000 overall with a similar disparity between rural and urban. Utah has the nation’s lowest ratio which is not “automatically” a bad thing.)
Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

Availability:

- Lack of Primary Care Providers
- Limited Access/Excessive ER Use
- Maldistribution

(by specialty and geography)
Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

Culture and Language:

- U.S. and UT demographics changing
- 70 Foreign languages in S.L. County (as the primary language of the family)
Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

Culture and Language:

- Many more cultural barriers, inc.
  - lack of education
  - intergenerational poverty
  - lack of understanding of a complex health care system
Why do we have a Safety Net?

Because too many Utahns have lacked access to basic primary and preventive care services.
Definition of a "Safety Net"

1) a **net** to protect people from injury.

2) programs seeking to protect the poor and/or most vulnerable from preventable harm.
Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

Definition of a “Safety Net”

3) a set of diverse programs which provide access to primary and preventive health services for those who lack access due to financial, geographical and/or cultural barriers.
Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

Services Provided

1) medical services (primary and preventive)
2) dental services (primary and preventive)
3) mental health services (primary)
Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

Where Are These Providers?

Answer: Everywhere!
Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

Website:  http://health.utah.gov/safetynet/
Welcome!

On behalf of the Utah Department of Health (UDOH), Division of Family Health and Preparedness and our community partners, welcome to our website.

Utah’s Health Care Safety Net plays an important role in providing health care to Utah’s underserved and uninsured populations. Safety Net members include medical and dental providers, mental health providers and advocacy groups.

Our goal at the UDOH is to make Utah citizens the healthiest people in the country. The Safety Net is just one
Welcome!

The Utah Department of Health and Utah’s Safety Net partners wish to welcome you to this source that may be able to assist you in locating the healthcare resources that you need.

The goal of this section is to provide contact information for Utah’s Healthcare Safety Net Partners, and to direct you to appropriate health care providers. The professionals listed at the links to the left deliver excellent care at a discount or at affordable rates and many of these accept public insurance programs (Medicaid, CHIP, PCN and Medicare).

Listed sections include a medical provider section, a dental provider section, referral agencies, and a mental health providers section. Please use the site links to the left to find the information you are looking for. In addition to the information that we have posted on this Web site, we have also included site links to organizations that may assist you in obtaining the information that you desire.
Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

Who Are These Providers?

#1 Community Health Centers
#2 Intermountain Neighborhood and School-based clinics
#3 UDOH Medical & Dental clinics
#4 “Free” clinics (9 in 2006)
#5 Volunteer Provider Networks
What Did They Provide?

2006 Data

Medical: almost 200,000 visits
Dental: almost 15,000 visits
Individuals: over 35,000 patients
Utah’s Health Care Safety Net

What Are the Current Gaps in the Net?

1. Overall lack of capacity.
2. Major lack of mental health capacity and services.
3. Very limited dental services.