

## The 7th Conference on Health Care of the Chinese in North America

### Experience of the Chinatown Health Clinic in Serving an Indigent Population

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#### **Abstract**

The Chinatown Health Clinic is the leading provider of bilingual, culturally competent, primary health care services for indigent recent immigrants in the New York City Chinese community. The Clinic is part of the federally funded community health center movement nationwide and shares a common legacy with origins in community activism during the early 1970's. Since 1978 the Clinic has received funding from the Public Health Service through the Urban Health Initiative for provision of community orientated primary care services to the poor and uninsured. At the present time there are approximately 8,000 active registered patients who made close to 37,000 visits during the calendar year 1993. Seventy five percent have incomes below the federal poverty level and 96% have incomes below 200% of poverty. Perinatal care is an important part of Clinic services since 72% of all adult patients are female and 86% of these women are of childbearing age. This presentation will describe the Clinic's five year experience with perinatal services during the period 1989 through 1993. Data on Clinic patients will be compared with local and national data for birth outcomes and rates of Cesarean delivery as well as goals for selected Healthy People 2,000 Maternal and Infant Health Objectives.

When I was one-and-twenty I heard a wise man say, "Give crowns and pounds and guineas but not your heart away; Give pearls away and rubies but keep your fancy free." But I was one-and-twenty, No use to talk to me. -- A. E. Housman, "When I was one-and-twenty"