

Safety Net Clinic Research Experience Project Program Guide



Cause for Action:

- Syracuse has the 13th worst poverty rate among all cities in the US.
- People living near or below the poverty line have decreased access to healthcare or fragmented healthcare, healthy food, and safe housing.
- By interviewing patients who utilize free clinics about their health needs, and analyzing the resulting data, Upstate students are able to identify key areas for intervention.

Where is the program?

The survey/interview component of the program is held within the free clinics within the Syracuse area; data analysis occurs on campus under the guidance and supervision of a faculty member. This research project is approved by Upstate's IRB.

Who does the Safety Net Research Project serve?

By identifying barriers to care, this program serves uninsured community members and others who utilize free clinics.

How does the program provide for this population?

In this program, student volunteers administer surveys in order to learn more about the community members who are utilizing the clinics within Syracuse and the reasons why. This information is essential to improving access to and coordination of healthcare and other necessary services for at-risk populations.

What would I do as a student?

As a student volunteer you would administer surveys to clinic patients, input data from surveys, and analyze data to become more informed about the trends in the Syracuse community.

How often would I volunteer?

As a volunteer you are not required a set number of hours. The students at Upstate volunteer during clinic times and various dates to input data, based on their availability and preference. Students must be approved to participate by the faculty member and go through the CITI training.

What are the community impacts?

By understanding the demographics and barriers faced by this population, the findings from this research project can be used to better coordinate healthcare services and access to quality health care for Syracuse residents.