

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE  
RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

**Why Do Insured Individuals Seek Care from Publicly-funded STD Clinics?  
Ann Schwartz**

**Objective:**

The three objectives for this study are: to identify insured individual's perceived benefits of seeking services at publicly-funded STD clinics, rather than from a private healthcare provider; to identify what perceived barriers are experienced by insured individuals who are seeking services for STDs from their regular healthcare providers; and to determine if there is a relationship between these benefits and barriers, and age, gender, sexual identity, race/ethnicity, and employment status.

**Background:**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that there are 19 million sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) diagnosed each year in the United States, which represents approximately 14.7 billion dollars in healthcare costs. Left untreated, these diseases can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease, infertility, and an increased risk of acquiring HIV. The Monroe County STD Clinic diagnoses and treats more than 7,000 clients per year, 50% of which are covered by health insurance. Why do these individuals choose to use a publicly-funded clinic rather than seeking services from their private healthcare providers?

**Methods:**

The study setting will be the Monroe County STD Clinic. A survey will be conducted with 224 clients, ages 18 and over, who access the clinic's services and self report health insurance coverage. The survey will be used to collect demographic information, and the most common benefits for seeking STD services from a publicly-funded STD clinic, and the most common barriers for accessing these same services from a private healthcare provider. The data will identify differences between individual characteristics and perceived barriers/benefits of seeking STD services.

**Significance:**

The identification of services at the Monroe County STD Clinic, that facilitate the healthcare seeking behaviors of its clients. The identification of changes, by primary healthcare providers, family health and community clinics, that are needed to meet the needs of insured individuals.

**Committee Chair:**

**Ann Dozier, PhD**

**Committee Members:**

**Theodore Brown, PhD**

**Patricia Coury-Doniger, NP**

**Wednesday, January 20, 2010  
12:00PM – 12:30 PM  
Helen Wood Hall, Room 4W301**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**