



Hennepin County Medical Center

## FACT SHEET

### A vital medical safety net

- HCMC serves patients regardless of their ability to pay. It is conservatively estimated that there are more than 100,000 persons in Hennepin County who are **uninsured** for some portion or all of the year and 400,000 uninsured persons statewide.
- HCMC provides the **most hospital care to vulnerable populations**, providing nearly 20 percent of the care provided statewide to persons on Minnesota public programs.
- Uncompensated care costs at HCMC **were \$48.9 million in 2008. HCMC provides 18 percent of the uncompensated care provided in Minnesota**; this represents 7.5 percent of the HCMC operating expenses.
- HCMC serves patients from across Minnesota. Nearly 20% of HCMC's patients are from **86 other Minnesota counties**. Many of these patients are referred by their local doctor because of the **high level of expertise** available at HCMC.
- The statewide Minnesota Poison Control System, based at HCMC, responded to 127,500 information or exposure calls last year from all 87 Minnesota counties.
- HCMC operates the **only hyperbaric oxygen facility in the region** for providing emergency treatment for smoke inhalation, carbon monoxide poisoning, gas gangrene, diving complications, serious wound infection and damage from radiation treatment.
- HCMC is the **backbone of the state's disaster preparedness system**. HCMC provides trauma training to police, sheriff and fire "first responders," ambulance and air-link crews, and local emergency department health personnel across the state. HCMC provides Critical Care Teleconferences to hospitals outside the metro area, and on-site trauma consultation and/or customized on-site training at the request of rural hospitals.
- HCMC and Hennepin Faculty Associates provide a spectrum of mental health services including 24/7 crisis intervention, diagnosis, treatment and ongoing support programs, both inpatient and outpatient.