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Community Healthcare Clinics: An Answer to Reducing Misuse of Emergency Department

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**COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE CLINICS: AN ANSWER TO REDUCING MISUSE OF
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

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Roughly one-third of all emergency department (ED) visits by both insured and uninsured individuals in the U.S. are for non-urgent conditions that can be effectively treated at a reduced cost by a primary care provider. This study is a secondary data analysis of patient visits to two midwest community EDs. The purpose of this study is to identify trends of ED visits by uninsured individuals. Community healthcare clinics (CHC) and the available services could help minimize non-urgent ED visits and improve primary care access in communities. This study examines the services provided in the ED for non-urgent visits that could be provided at a less costly facility, such as a CHC. Implications of the analysis are discussed, including community resources needed to reduce non-emergency visits and the associated cost burdens of uncompensated healthcare dollars on these midwest communities.