

The Odessa Women's Wellness Center is located on the premises of the Odessa Regional Clinical Hospital. In addition to providing the comprehensive range of medical services offered by all AIHA WWCs, the Odessa Center offers:

- adolescent healthcare;
- psychological counseling, including a crisis hotline, which provides counseling on issues related to family planning, the trafficking of women, and domestic violence;
- education and health promotion in the areas of mental health, alcoholism, drug addiction, and smoking cessation;
- family planning services and education;
- breast health education, screening, and treatment;
- prenatal care and education; and
- healthy lifestyles promotion, including nutritional advice, physical exercise counseling, and screening for chronic diseases, such as anemia, diabetes, and hypertension.

Additionally, the Center has built a computer database of patients; is implementing special women's health-

care programs for the rural population; trains physicians, obstetricians, and nurses at the Center in conjunction with the Odessa State Medical University; and cooperates with the nongovernmental organization "Health, Woman, Longevity" to promote healthy lifestyle choices.

In 1999, there were 61,654 visits to our clinic and we served 34,706 patients. During the first three quarters of 2000, there were 46,174 visits and 21,470 patients. Of these visits, 47 percent are made by women from rural communities.

We have calculated the reasons patients come to the Center and have determined that:

- 38 percent of the women suffer from gynecological ailments/diseases;
- 26 percent come because they are pregnant;
- 12 percent visit the Mammography Center;
- 8 percent come for information on family planning;
- 6 percent of the patients we serve are adolescents;
- 4 percent come for preventive visits; and
- 5 percent come for some other issue.

More than 60 percent of the Center's clinical patients also attend educational sessions to receive training on various subjects, take part in special interest meetings and discussions, or participate in special programs designed for adolescents and problem youth. Educational programs offered by the Center, as well as mass media and nongovernment funded educational campaigns, allow us to attract more patients for preventive visits, family planning instruction, and Mammography Center screening.

Our highly successful Mammography Center achieves earlier detection of breast diseases and cancer. Annually we schedule an average of 5,500 visits, for both men and women, performing 4,000 clinical examinations of female patients; 2,200 ultrasound breast exams; and 2,000 mammograms.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ODESSA WWC.

Testing is a common procedure at the Odessa WWC where 38 percent of the women who visit suffer from gynecological conditions.

Сдача анализов является обычной процедурой в Одесском Центре здоровья женщин, 38% пациенток которого страдают гинекологическими заболеваниями.

Odessa, Ukraine

The WWC is proud of its implementation of an integrated approach to women's healthcare services, particularly in rural areas. During our years of operation, about 300 rural obstetricians and nurses have been trained in family planning and contraceptive issues, the early diagnosis of STIs, the teaching of breast self-examinations, implementing protocols for observation of pregnant women, and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. Training of physicians, particularly obstetricians and nurses from outpatient clinics in rural areas, helps to raise the quality of on-site medical services provided to local women, allows the implementation of simple and affordable diagnostic methods, promotes healthy lifestyles, and contributes to the well-being of women in rural areas.

We trust that our Center's principal mission will continue to be the safeguarding of women's health.

ABOUT THE ODESSA WWC

Date Opened: November 2, 1998
AIHA partnership: Odessa/Coney Island

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