

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
September 5, 2008

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### **Lincoln Hospital Commended for Improving Access to Care for Hispanic and Black Adolescents in the South Bronx**

#### ***Receives 2008 NAPH Safety Net Honorable Mention Award***

The Adolescent Health Services Clinic at Lincoln Hospital received high praise from the National Association of Public Hospitals (NAPH) for improving access to care to Hispanic and Black youth in the South Bronx. This segment of our population experiences disproportionate rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases as compared to their counterparts in New York City and the United States.

To address this serious healthcare disparity, Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center redesigned and implemented a convenient, same-day service model as part of its hospital-based pediatric clinic, enabling adolescents to receive confidential services in a friendly, sensitive and structured environment.

All components of the one-stop, standard visit—including registration, triage, assessments, immunization, testing, treatment and follow-up appointments—are performed in the same clinic, popularly known as the “Teen Center”. This visit also includes same-day access to an interdisciplinary team (nurse, physician, social worker, psychologist, and health educator) assisting with the physical, intellectual, emotional and social challenges faced by teenagers as they transition to adulthood.

“The implementation of a new ‘Confidential Adolescent Account’ allows us to build trust and better professional relationships with our young patients, and provide health care regardless of their financial or parental insurance status,” says Tatiana Pavlova Greenfield, MD PhD, Chief of Adolescent Health Services.

The successful redesigned service resulted in an increase of nearly 300 percent in the total number of visits per clinic session as well as a climb in the rate of return visits for the second and third doses of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations. Lincoln was recognized for having the highest number of HPV vaccines

administered to adolescents within the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation since the program's inception in December 2006.

“The dedicated staff assigned to the Teen Center cares not only for the physical health of our youth, but also provides counseling and social support, encouraging them to hope for a brighter future,” said José R. Sánchez, Lincoln Hospital's Executive Director and Generations+/Northern Manhattan Health Network.

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