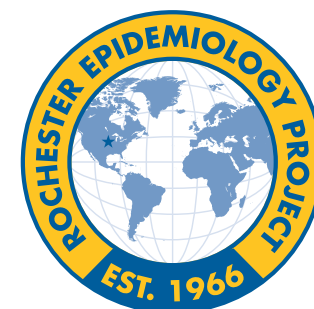


What is the Rochester Epidemiology Project (REP)?

The Rochester Epidemiology Project (REP) is a collaboration of clinics, hospitals, and other medical facilities in southeastern Minnesota and involves community members who have agreed to share their medical records for research. Using medical record information, medical scientists can discover what causes the diseases, how patients respond to medical and surgical therapies, and what will happen to patients in the future. Research studies conducted in the local community may improve the health of people both locally and globally.

Contact us:
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Improving health globally by studying health locally
A Southeast Minnesota Collaboration

Collaborators:

Olmsted Medical Center
 Mayo Clinic
 Mayo Clinic Health Systems
 Rochester Clinic
 Dental Clinics
 Olmsted County Public
 Health Department
 Migrant Health Services, Inc.



REP funded by:



National Institute
of Health

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What studies have used the REP?

The REP has been used for hundreds of research studies since 1966. A list of the published studies is available on the REP website: www.rochesterproject.org

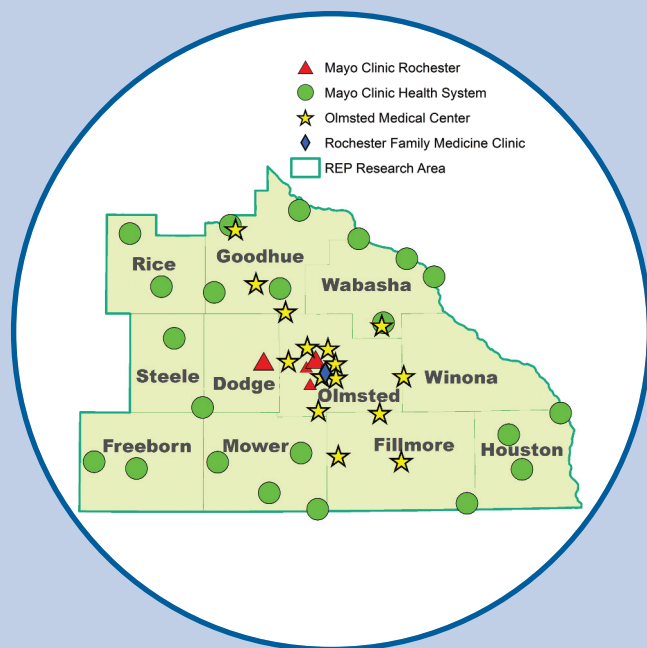
What are the advantages of being involved in the REP?

You have an opportunity to contribute to medical research that can improve the health of people in your community and throughout the world. By agreeing to participate in the REP, you can help researchers discover new ways to treat or prevent diseases.

How can I participate in the REP?

All patients who visit an Olmsted County health care clinic or hospital for the first time are asked to sign a form that gives permission for their medical record to be used for research. If you give permission, or do not respond, your data automatically becomes part of the REP, and researchers can use your medical information to answer scientific questions. Over 93% of Olmsted County residents have given permission for their records to be included in the REP.

Most often, researchers who use REP records will not contact you for further information. You can change your mind at any time and send a letter to your clinic or hospital asking that your records not be used. Your current and future medical care will not be affected by your decision.



Location of health care providers participating in the REP

"The REP allows the study of health and disease across the entire community, from birth to death, and from primary to specialty care."

– Barbara Yawn, MD

Your safety and confidentiality are protected.

All studies done using the REP are required to be reviewed by a group of experts in patient's rights and safety called the Institutional Review Board (IRB). All studies conducted with the REP need approval from both the Mayo Clinic IRB and the Olmsted Medical Center IRB.

Researchers who use your records will keep your information completely confidential. You will never be identified in any reports. Information from patients is always combined so that it is impossible to tell which patients participated in a study. For example, it might be reported that "20 men had heart attacks in January, 2005, in Olmsted County, MN." It would never be reported that "Mr. J. had a heart attack on January 16, 2005."

The REP is an important and unique resource. For you it is a simple way to contribute information that can lead to medical discoveries.

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