



“Addressing the Disparity” Campus Tour

On March 28 and March 29, 2012, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan began a campus tour where the team traveled throughout the state to different college campuses to bring together community leaders, public health experts, and women’s health advocates to discuss the health disparities among women of color that results from a lack of access to quality, affordable health care services.

The 48-hour-long campus tour “Addressing the Disparity: The Affordable Care Act, Women, and Communities of Color” began at Wayne State University in coalition with the Law Students for Reproductive Justice, then moved on to Michigan State University to partner with Michigan State University’s Students for Choice organization, and finally finished strong at the University of Michigan with the University’s Student for Choice student group, where there was standing room only.

Each stop on the tour began with a presentation by a panel of eight different experts on health care and the disparities experienced by different communities from Arab Americans to Native Americans. In addition to our amazing panelists, PPAM was privileged to have Destiny Lopez, Outgoing Director of Latino Engagement at Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), on all three panels; Kersha Deibel, Campus Organizer at PPFA, to introduce the event and panelists; and Desiree Cooper, Director of Community and Media Relations at Planned Parenthood Mid and South Michigan, as moderator. The panel presentation was followed by a training on the Affordable Care Act presented by Michigan Consumers for Healthcare. The final activity involved small group discussions facilitated by university students where attendees were given the opportunity to share their personal stories and plan how they would share the information they learned in their communities.

At the end of the event, a special movie screening of *A Vital Service: African-American Stories of Reproductive Health Care* was viewed by attendees. This documentary features personal stories from the women and families who have benefitted from having access to the critical health services offered at Planned Parenthood health centers. ■



ADDRESSING THE DISPARITY:
The Affordable Care Act, Women,
and Communities of Color



SNAPSHOTS