



**National Association of Community Health Centers
2006 Data on Community Health Centers
Summary of Findings**

Community Health Centers are widely considered the President's favorite health care program. Now in its 41st year, the program cares for over 15 million underserved people in rural and urban areas across the country, and is assigned the top rating as one of the most effective government programs on the White House Office of Management and Budget website www.expectmore.gov.

At a time when consumers are paying more for fewer health care options, or are increasingly underinsured or uninsured, health centers offer affordable and accessible health care that is community-driven – a rarity in America's complex and fragmented health care marketplace. The health center model of care is gaining currency as an affordable solution to runaway health care costs and the swelling ranks of the uninsured. Indeed, President Bush has made the program the centerpiece of his health care plan. Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt has also cited the health center model as a template on which to rebuild the devastated health care infrastructure along the Gulf Coast. And because health centers have a proven record of success, the President has asked Congress to increase funding for the program in FY 2007 by \$181 million.

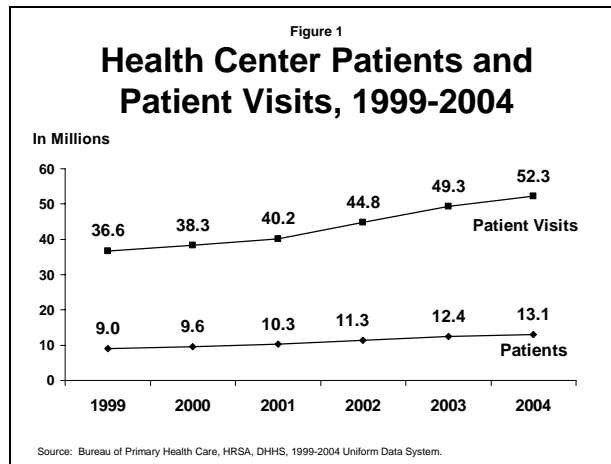
Health centers may be the fastest growing health program in the federal government, but the investment has produced dividends for taxpayers. Around \$2 billion a year in federal dollars are invested in the program, and billions more are saved because the 15 million health center patients make fewer visits to hospital ERs, have fewer hospitalizations, and fewer referrals to costly medical specialists.

The cost-saving benefits of the health centers' expansion is critical as new data from the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) reveals the growing unmet need in America for affordable and accessible primary health care.

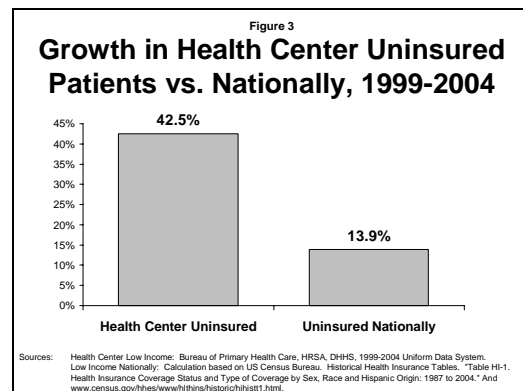
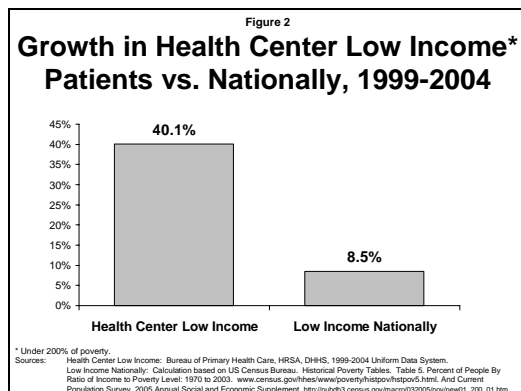
Among NACHC's findings are:

- Over \$18 billion a year is wasted on avoidable visits to hospital emergency rooms (ERs). About one-third of all visits to hospital ERs each year are non-urgent or treatable in primary care settings. These visits could have been redirected to a Community Health Center, where care is much more affordable. In fact, the annual cost of treating a patient at a health center is less than the cost of one ER visit.

- Individuals who are low-income, publicly insured or uninsured, or who do not have a primary care doctor are the people who tend to have avoidable ER visits. These are the very people that health centers aim serve. Yet the need is still staggering: 36 million people—that’s one in every eight Americans—don’t have a doctor or regular source of care. If these 36 million unserved Americans did have a regular source of care, billions of dollars in health care costs could be saved from reduced ER visits.
- 40 million children in America do not receive preventive medical and dental visits.
- 20 million people in the U.S. live in 900 high-poverty counties that need a health center and don’t have one today.
- The number of patients treated by health centers increased by 46% between 1999 and 2004, the most significant and rapid growth in the program’s history.



- The number of low-income patients at health centers grew nearly five times as fast as the number of low-income Americans between 1999 and 2004. Over the same time, the number of uninsured patients grew three times as fast as the uninsured nationally.



2006 Access to Community Health Databook

Summary of Findings

State	% of Low Income, Uninsured Served by Health Centers*	% of Medicaid Beneficiaries Served by Health Centers*	% of Residents at or Under 100% of Poverty Served by Health Centers*	Number of Residents Without Access to a Primary Care Physician	% of Children Who Did Not Receive Medical & Dental Preventive Care Visits	Annual Wasted Expenditures on Avoidable Emergency Room Visits
Alabama	31%	12%	21%	1,325,428	41%	\$ 319,400,854
Alaska	47%	19%	37%	20,434	46%	\$ 32,732,965
Arizona	14%	13%	20%	326,101	48%	\$ 311,438,714
Arkansas	17%	4%	11%	636,207	51%	\$ 189,500,122
California	19%	11%	20%	2,498,753	47%	\$ 1,829,345,794
Colorado	39%	32%	39%	272,949	42%	\$ 238,246,230
Connecticut	25%	22%	31%	102,615	28%	\$ 207,348,610
Delaware	12%	6%	10%	46,820	37%	\$ 47,497,790
District of Columbia	74%	14%	36%	80,836	34%	\$ 55,797,643
Florida	17%	7%	13%	2,195,915	46%	\$ 1,061,420,739
Georgia	11%	5%	10%	1,907,670	42%	\$ 537,867,735
Hawaii	36%	18%	28%	1,345	36%	\$ 55,098,405
Idaho	27%	11%	29%	277,867	54%	\$ 88,713,842
Illinois	21%	18%	24%	632,687	39%	\$ 853,731,297
Indiana	15%	6%	10%	809,064	39%	\$ 441,019,299
Iowa	18%	11%	16%	339,747	38%	\$ 183,880,125
Kansas	16%	4%	9%	351,249	39%	\$ 159,038,693
Kentucky	22%	8%	15%	821,838	40%	\$ 353,798,163
Louisiana	8%	4%	8%	1,630,978	49%	\$ 354,757,738
Maine	23%	10%	20%	53,142	34%	\$ 105,902,573
Maryland	10%	13%	13%	165,476	35%	\$ 320,407,972
Massachusetts	38%	16%	30%	230,772	25%	\$ 401,458,842
Michigan	17%	11%	16%	1,124,134	39%	\$ 726,928,960
Minnesota	19%	7%	12%	454,920	45%	\$ 256,913,897
Mississippi	41%	16%	31%	952,877	53%	\$ 252,769,055
Missouri	23%	13%	22%	1,017,673	44%	\$ 429,712,468

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Montana	31%	13%	25%	150,308	51%	\$ 54,444,985
Nebraska	14%	4%	12%	343,218	42%	\$ 94,243,689
Nevada	10%	7%	9%	443,131	53%	\$ 112,928,929
New Hampshire	20%	9%	25%	31,303	28%	\$ 79,046,610
New Jersey	15%	13%	16%	557,531	32%	\$ 438,047,852
New Mexico	34%	15%	35%	346,724	45%	\$ 132,027,370
New York	15%	12%	20%	2,044,567	31%	\$ 1,126,031,176
North Carolina	15%	6%	12%	1,664,904	41%	\$ 548,645,880
North Dakota	13%	11%	17%	92,533	51%	\$ 41,491,015
Ohio	10%	7%	13%	1,110,049	39%	\$ 932,659,694
Oklahoma	9%	5%	11%	625,357	51%	\$ 208,230,028
Oregon	21%	19%	24%	326,025	48%	\$ 179,035,367
Pennsylvania	13%	10%	16%	1,103,118	33%	\$ 790,754,728
Rhode Island	36%	25%	40%	23,916	26%	\$ 61,807,552
South Carolina	27%	15%	24%	754,321	43%	\$ 265,008,761
South Dakota	40%	11%	19%	147,866	51%	\$ 36,418,180
Tennessee	14%	7%	14%	1,251,568	42%	\$ 476,285,058
Texas	9%	5%	8%	3,956,574	46%	\$ 1,233,549,349
Utah	24%	6%	16%	458,071	48%	\$ 152,152,368
Vermont	22%	11%	27%	34,734	29%	\$ 38,015,757
Virginia	10%	6%	10%	963,257	39%	\$ 452,375,606
Washington	39%	27%	42%	299,269	40%	\$ 354,817,611
West Virginia	49%	20%	49%	239,454	36%	\$ 180,480,840
Wisconsin	10%	11%	14%	683,656	39%	\$ 272,179,576
Wyoming	26%	7%	16%	119,181	43%	\$ 36,360,931
United States	20%	11%	28%	36,048,131	41%	\$18,445,991,718