

What are Community Health Centers?

Community, Migrant, and Homeless Health Centers are **non-profit, community-directed providers** that remove common barriers to care by serving communities who otherwise confront financial, geographic, language, cultural and other barriers. Also known as Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), they:

- are **located in high-need areas** identified as having elevated poverty, higher than average infant mortality, and where few physicians practice;
- are **open to all residents**, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay;
- **tailor services** to fit the special needs and priorities of their communities, and provide services in a linguistically and culturally appropriate manner;
- provide **comprehensive primary and other health care services**, including services that help their patients access care, such as transportation, translation, and case management;
- **provide high quality care**, reducing health disparities and improving patient outcomes;¹ and
- are **cost effective**, reducing costly emergency, hospital, and specialty care, and **saving the health care system \$24 billion a year nationally.**²

United States Federally-Supported Health Centers, 2009

- Approximately 1200 Health Center Organizations
- Over 8000 Delivery Sites
- Serving 20 Million Patients, including:
 - 864,996 Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Patients
 - 1,018,084 Homeless Patients

	Health Center Population	US Population ³
Percent at or Below 100% of Poverty	71%	20%
Percent Under 200% of Poverty	93%	39%
Percent Uninsured	38%	17%
Percent Medicaid	37%	16%
Percent Medicare	7%	12%
Percent Hispanic/Latino	35%	16%
Percent African American	27%	12%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	5%	5%
Percent American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	1%
Percent White	62%	65%
Percent Rural ⁴	48%	16%

Race/Ethnicity may not sum to 100% due to rounding and non-inclusion of two or more races. Race data is inclusive of Hispanic/Latino population. 0% may indicate <0.5%. Rural data from 2009.

Percent of Vulnerable United States Residents Served by Federally-Supported Health Centers⁵

Percent of Low Income, Uninsured , 2009	21%
Percent of Medicaid Beneficiaries , 2007	12%
Percent of Population at or Below 100% of Poverty , 2009	18%

Economic Benefits of Federally-Supported Health Centers

Total Economic Benefits Generated for Local Communities 2009 ⁶	\$19,935,197,614
Total Economic Benefits Projected for Local Communities, 2015 ⁷	\$53,793,901,051

United States Health Center Fact Sheet, 2009

Data for federally-funded health centers only and may therefore underreport the true volume of care. See note below.

Health Center Staff and Related Patient Visits

	FTE*	Patient Visits
Physicians	9124.8	34,233,343
NPs/PAs/CNMs	5758.1	16,877,080
Nurses	10626.0	3,416,755
Dentists	2577.2	7,024,180
Dental Hygienists	1018.8	1,377,525
Behavioral Health Specialists [†]	4510.0	4,774,584
Pharmacy	2478.6	N/A
Total Enabling Services [‡]	11647.6	4,822,992
Other Staff	75271.1	N/A
Total	123012.1	73,829,866

* Full-time equivalent.

[†] Includes psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed or credentialed behavioral health providers, & other mental health staff.

[‡] Includes outreach workers, health educators, case managers, translators, transportation, eligibility assistance workers, and child care workers. Not all staff have related patient visits.

Patient Visits and Patients by Selected Primary Diagnoses and Services

	Patient Visits	Patients
Medical Conditions		
Hypertension	4,089,924	1,879,128
Diabetes mellitus	3,547,412	1,182,447
Heart Disease (Selected)	664,455	267,772
Asthma	958,245	540,599
Depression & Other Mood Disorders	2,041,440	629,535
All Mental Health & Substance Abuse	5,888,315	N/A
Preventive Services		
Health Supervision Ages 0-11*	3,838,349	2,331,212
Selected Immunizations [#]	3,662,458	2,617,969
Oral Dental Exams	3,395,757	2,581,667
Pap Test	2,007,242	1,840,570
Mammogram	344,553	320,456
HIV Test	753,801	691,280

* Well child visits. [#] Includes DPT, MMR, polio, influenza, hepatitis A & B, Hib, etc.

Health Centers Providing Select Services Onsite*

Professional Services

General Primary Medical Care
Prenatal Care
Preventive Dental Care
Mental Health Treatment/Counseling
Substance Abuse Treatment & Counseling
Hearing Screening
Vision Screening
Pharmacy

Preventive Services

Smoking Cessation Program
HIV Testing And Counseling
Glycosylated Hemoglobin Measurement, Diabetes
Blood Pressure Monitoring
Blood Cholesterol Screening
Weight Reduction Program

Enabling Services

Case Management
Eligibility Assistance
Health Education
Interpretation/Translation Services
Transportation
Out stationed Eligibility Workers

* "Onsite" includes services rendered by employees, contracted providers, volunteers and others who render services in the health center's name. Health centers may also provide services through formal referral arrangements. Data based on 2007 UDS.

Health Center Costs of Care

Average Cost per Patient	Cost
Medical Costs per Medical Patient*	\$414
Dental Costs per Dental Patient	\$372
Total Cost per Total Patient [#]	\$600

Average Cost per Patient Visit

Medical Cost per Medical Patient Visit [†]	\$131
Dental Costs per Dental Patient Visit	\$152

*Excludes lab and x-ray

[#] Includes the total cost of all services over total users

[†]Excludes lab, x-ray, and nurse visits

Sources and Notes

Page 1 of this fact sheet includes NACHC estimates of patients of federally and non-federally funded health centers and expected patient growth for 2009. Data from federally funded health centers - including all data on **page 2** - are based on Bureau of Primary Health Care, HRSA, DHHS, 2008 Uniform Data System (UDS). UDS includes data from Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that receive federal health center grants and are therefore required to report administrative, clinical and other information. Data do not account for a category of FQHCs that does not receive these funds, known as FQHC Look-Alikes. There are approximately 100 FQHC Look-Alikes across the United States. Consequently, data reflected on this page may underreport the true volume of care delivered by health centers.

¹ See Summaries of Literature on Health Centers, Quality of Care, www.nachc.com/research.

² GWU, *Using Primary Care to Bend the Curve: Estimating the Impact of a Health Center Expansion on Health Care Costs*, September 2009, www.gwhealthpolicy.org.

³ Kaiser Family Foundation, State Health Facts Online, www.statehealthfacts.org. U.S. Census Bureau, Table 4: Annual Estimates of the Population by Race Alone and Hispanic or Latino Origin for the United States and States: July 2009. Released June 2010. www.census.gov/popest/states/.

⁴ Kaiser Family Foundation, State Health Facts Online. www.statehealthfacts.org. Urban Institute and Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured estimates based on the Census Bureau's March 2009 and 2010 Current Population Survey (CPS: Annual Social and Economic Supplements).

⁵ Compares health center UDS data to state population data respectively. State population data come from Kaiser Family Foundation, State Health Facts Online. www.statehealthfacts.kff.org. The assumption that the uninsured are low-income is based on the 2009 UDS.

⁶ NACHC and Capital Link, *Community Health Centers Lead the Primary Care Revolution*, August 2010, www.nachc.com/research.

⁷ Center for American Progress, *The Importance of Community Health Centers*, August 2009, <http://www.americanprogress.org>.

For more information, email research@nachc.com or visit www.nachc.com/research.

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