

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
- are **cost effective**, reducing costly emergency, hospital, and specialty care, and **saving the health care system between \$9.9 to \$17.6 billion a year nationally**.²

California Federally-Supported Health Centers

Number of Organizations	110
Number of Delivery Sites	796
Total Patients	2,314,271
Number Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Patients	364,273
Number Homeless Patients	185,213

	Health Center Population	State Population ³	US Population ³
Percent at or Below 100% of Poverty , 2007	76%	19%	17%
Percent Under 200% of Poverty , 2007	95%	39%	36%
Percent Uninsured , 2007	45%	19%	12%
Percent Medicaid , 2007	38%	16%	13%
Percent Medicare , 2007	5%	9%	15%
Percent Hispanic/Latino , 2007*	62%	36%	15%
Percent African American , 2007*	9%	7%	13%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander , 2007*	13%	13%	5%
Percent American Indian/Alaska Native , 2007*	1%	1%	1%
Percent White (Including Hispanic/Latino), 2007*	77%	77%	80%
Percent Rural , 2007	43%	2%	16%

* May not sum to 100% due to rounding and non-inclusion of two or more races. 0% may indicate <0.5%. Health center racial and ethnic population data may vary from last year due to changes in reporting.

Percent of Vulnerable California Residents Served by Federally-Supported Health Centers⁴

Percent of Low Income, Uninsured , 2007	24%
Percent of Medicaid Beneficiaries , 2005	12%
Percent of Population at or Below 100% of Poverty , 2007	26%

Economic Benefits of California Federally-Supported Health Centers

Wasted Expenditures on Avoidable Emergency Department Visits , 2006 ⁵	\$1,829,345,794
Economic Benefits Generated for Local Communities, 2006 ²	\$2,037,609,155

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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
Primary Care Physicians	1,048.7	4,269,378
NPs/PAs/CNMs	659.6	2,259,680
Nurses	616.0	248,431
Dentists	309.8	988,471
Dental Hygienists	29.2	36,031
Behavioral Health Specialists [#]	535.3	643,693
Pharmacy	222.6	N/A
Total Enabling Services [†]	2,182.7	911,186
Other Staff	10,541.8	N/A
Total	16,145.6	9,710,175

* Full-time equivalent.

[#] Includes psychiatrists, psychologists, and licensed or credentialed behavioral health providers.

[†] 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
<i>Medical Conditions</i>		
Hypertension	478,417	175,479
Diabetes mellitus	538,615	141,525
Heart Disease (Selected)	60,657	22,719
Asthma	130,627	69,058
Depression & Other Mood Disorders	183,000	55,303
All Mental Health & Substance Abuse	582,902	N/A
<i>Preventive Services</i>		
Health Supervision Ages 0-11*	616,849	352,058
Selected Immunizations [#]	660,990	441,312
Oral Dental Exams	387,283	243,022
Pap Test	268,874	249,162
Mammogram	55,066	51,282
HIV Test	88,251	82,253

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

Percent of Health Centers Providing Select Services Onsite*

<i>Professional Services</i>	
General Primary Medical Care	99%
Prenatal Care	80%
Preventive Dental Care	74%
Mental Health Treatment/Counseling	77%
Substance Abuse Treatment & Counseling	46%
Hearing Screening	94%
Vision Screening	95%
Pharmacy	33%
<i>Preventive Services</i>	
Smoking Cessation Program	54%
HIV Testing And Counseling	95%
Glycosylated Hemoglobin Measurement, Diabetes	84%
Blood Pressure Monitoring	98%
Blood Cholesterol Screening	86%
Weight Reduction Program	77%
<i>Enabling Services</i>	
Case Management	99%
Eligibility Assistance	94%
Health Education	99%
Interpretation/Translation Services	95%
Transportation	65%
Out stationed Eligibility Workers	47%

* "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.

Health Center Costs of Care

Average Cost per Patient	Cost
Medical Costs per Medical Patient*	\$402
Dental Costs per Dental Patient	\$399
Total Cost per Total Patient [#]	\$605
<i>Average Cost per Patient Visit</i>	
Medical Cost per Medical Patient Visit	\$122
Dental Costs per Dental Patient Visit	\$141

* Excludes lab and x-ray as in previous years.

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

Sources and Notes

Unless otherwise specified, this fact sheet is based on Bureau of Primary Health Care, HRSA, DHHS, 2007 Uniform Data System (UDS). It 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 more than a quarter of which are located in California. Consequently, data reflected in this fact sheet may underreport the true volume of care delivered by health centers.

¹ See the NACHC 2008 Chart Book at www.nachc.com/research.

² NACHC, Robert Graham Center, and Capital Link, *Access Granted*, August 2007, <http://www.nachc.com/research-reports.cfm>.

³ Urban Institute and Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured estimates based on Census Bureau's March 2007 and 2008 Current Population Survey. See 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 2007. Released May 2008. <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/>.

⁴ Compares health center 2005 and 2007 UDS to 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 state population data, respectively. State population data come from Kaiser Family Foundation, State Health Facts Online. www.statehealthfacts.kff.org.

⁵ NACHC and Association of Community Affiliated Plans, *The Impact of Health Centers and Community-Affiliated Health Plans on Emergency Department Use*, April 2007, <http://www.nachc.com/research>.

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