

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

Arkansas Federally-Supported Health Centers, 2008

Number of Organizations	12
Number of Delivery Sites	68
Total Patients	125,324
Number Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Patients	1,525
Number Homeless Patients	1,309

	Health Center Population	State Population ³	US Population ³
Percent at or Below 100% of Poverty	75%	19%	17%
Percent Under 200% of Poverty	92%	42%	32%
Percent Uninsured	46%	17%	15%
Percent Medicaid	25%	17%	14%
Percent Medicare	11%	14%	12%
Percent Hispanic/Latino	10%	6%	15%
Percent African American	27%	16%	13%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	1%	1%	5%
Percent American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	1%	1%
Percent White	68%	81%	80%
Percent Rural	74%	36%	16%

Race/Ethnicity may not sum to 100% due to rounding and non-inclusion of two or more races. 0% may indicate <0.5%. Rural data from 2007.

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

Percent of Low Income, Uninsured , 2008	18%
Percent of Medicaid Beneficiaries , 2006	4%
Percent of Population at or Below 100% of Poverty , 2008	18%

Economic Benefits of Federally-Supported Health Centers

Wasted Expenditures on Avoidable Emergency Department Visits , 2006 ⁵	\$189,500,122
Economic Benefits Generated for Local Communities, 2006 ⁶	\$78,795,465

Arkansas Health Center Fact Sheet, 2008

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	62.7	225,423
NPs/PAs/CNMs	35.8	103,625
Nurses	110.4	21,517
Dentists	16.4	40,132
Dental Hygienists	5.8	6,496
Behavioral Health Specialists [#]	1.7	1,250
Pharmacy	9.1	N/A
Total Enabling Services [†]	82.2	51,971
Other Staff	406.3	N/A
Total	730.2	450,814

* 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
Medical Conditions		
Hypertension	48,013	20,394
Diabetes mellitus	27,869	9,033
Heart Disease (Selected)	5,282	2,519
Asthma	3,540	2,325
Depression & Other Mood Disorders	6,302	3,822
All Mental Health & Substance Abuse	15,353	N/A
Preventive Services		
Health Supervision Ages 0-11*	10,573	7,975
Selected Immunizations [#]	9,896	8,492
Oral Dental Exams	17,339	13,440
Pap Test	4,756	4,514
Mammogram	2,571	2,459
HIV Test	2,341	2,199

* 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	100%
Prenatal Care	50%
Preventive Dental Care	75%
Mental Health Treatment/Counseling	58%
Substance Abuse Treatment & Counseling	42%
Hearing Screening	50%
Vision Screening	92%
Pharmacy	25%
Preventive Services	
Smoking Cessation Program	50%
HIV Testing And Counseling	100%
Glycosylated Hemoglobin Measurement, Diabetes	100%
Blood Pressure Monitoring	100%
Blood Cholesterol Screening	92%
Weight Reduction Program	92%
Enabling Services	
Case Management	92%
Eligibility Assistance	100%
Health Education	100%
Interpretation/Translation Services	75%
Transportation	50%
Out stationed Eligibility Workers	100%

* "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*	\$319
Dental Costs per Dental Patient	\$345
Total Cost per Total Patient [#]	\$454

Average Cost per Patient Visit	Cost
Medical Cost per Medical Patient Visit	\$117
Dental Costs per Dental Patient Visit	\$149

* 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, 2008 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. Consequently, data reflected in this fact sheet 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 2008. Released May 2009. www.census.gov/popest/states/.

⁴ 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.

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

⁶ NACHC, Robert Graham Center, and Capital Link, *Access Granted*, August 2007, www.nachc.com/research.

For more information, email research@nachc.com or visit www.chc-ar.org.

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