

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

Arizona Federally-Supported Health Centers, 2008

Number of Organizations	14
Number of Delivery Sites	129
Total Patients	356,094
Number Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Patients	10,433
Number Homeless Patients	10,249

	Health Center Population	State Population ³	US Population ³
Percent at or Below 100% of Poverty	74%	21%	17%
Percent Under 200% of Poverty	95%	40%	32%
Percent Uninsured	28%	19%	15%
Percent Medicaid	40%	17%	14%
Percent Medicare	8%	11%	12%
Percent Hispanic/Latino	49%	30%	15%
Percent African American	3%	4%	13%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	1%	3%	5%
Percent American Indian/Alaska Native	5%	5%	1%
Percent White	36%	87%	80%
Percent Rural	61%	12%	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 Arizona Residents Served by Federally-Supported Health Centers⁴

Percent of Low Income, Uninsured , 2008	12%
Percent of Medicaid Beneficiaries , 2006	8%
Percent of Population at or Below 100% of Poverty , 2008	19%

Economic Benefits of Federally-Supported Health Centers

Wasted Expenditures on Avoidable Emergency Department Visits , 2006 ⁵	\$311,438,714
Economic Benefits Generated for Local Communities, 2006 ⁶	\$286,830,888

Arizona 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	200.1	733,122
NPs/PAs/CNMs	91.0	261,658
Nurses	184.9	78,027
Dentists	37.1	87,825
Dental Hygienists	14.9	18,523
Behavioral Health Specialists [#]	32.4	35,050
Pharmacy	95.3	N/A
Total Enabling Services [†]	207.4	57,340
Other Staff	1,642.7	N/A
Total	2,505.9	1,279,305

* 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	53,685	27,707
Diabetes mellitus	77,149	23,457
Heart Disease (Selected)	12,635	4,893
Asthma	18,435	11,598
Depression & Other Mood Disorders	11,423	5,171
All Mental Health & Substance Abuse	32,680	N/A
<i>Preventive Services</i>		
Health Supervision Ages 0-11*	108,635	63,685
Selected Immunizations [#]	89,520	62,778
Oral Dental Exams	45,070	35,961
Pap Test	41,331	37,604
Mammogram	12,454	10,809
HIV Test	3,353	3,197

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

Health Centers Providing Select Services Onsite*

<i>Professional Services</i>	
General Primary Medical Care	100%
Prenatal Care	86%
Preventive Dental Care	93%
Mental Health Treatment/Counseling	93%
Substance Abuse Treatment & Counseling	64%
Hearing Screening	93%
Vision Screening	100%
Pharmacy	50%
<i>Preventive Services</i>	
Smoking Cessation Program	50%
HIV Testing And Counseling	93%
Glycosylated Hemoglobin Measurement, Diabetes	86%
Blood Pressure Monitoring	93%
Blood Cholesterol Screening	86%
Weight Reduction Program	79%
<i>Enabling Services</i>	
Case Management	86%
Eligibility Assistance	100%
Health Education	100%
Interpretation/Translation Services	100%
Transportation	64%
Out stationed Eligibility Workers	29%

* "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

<i>Average Cost per Patient</i>	
Medical Costs per Medical Patient*	\$424
Dental Costs per Dental Patient	\$468
Total Cost per Total Patient [#]	\$627
<i>Average Cost per Patient Visit</i>	
Medical Cost per Medical Patient Visit	\$143
Dental Costs per Dental Patient Visit	\$198

* 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.aachc.org.

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