

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

Colorado Federally-Supported Health Centers, 2008

Number of Organizations	15
Number of Delivery Sites	160
Total Patients	419,514
Number Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Patients	13,346
Number Homeless Patients	21,758

	Health Center Population	State Population ³	US Population ³
Percent at or Below 100% of Poverty	64%	13%	17%
Percent Under 200% of Poverty	91%	29%	32%
Percent Uninsured	44%	16%	15%
Percent Medicaid	33%	9%	14%
Percent Medicare	7%	10%	12%
Percent Hispanic/Latino	50%	20%	15%
Percent African American	7%	4%	13%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	2%	3%	5%
Percent American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	1%	1%
Percent White	60%	90%	80%
Percent Rural	46%	13%	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 Colorado Residents Served by Federally-Supported Health Centers⁴

Percent of Low Income, Uninsured , 2008	39%
Percent of Medicaid Beneficiaries , 2006	24%
Percent of Population at or Below 100% of Poverty , 2008	42%

Economic Benefits of Federally-Supported Health Centers

Wasted Expenditures on Avoidable Emergency Department Visits , 2006 ⁵	\$238,246,230
Economic Benefits Generated for Local Communities, 2006 ⁶	\$373,364,151

Colorado 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	209.7	693,402
NPs/PAs/CNMs	189.6	560,250
Nurses	197.0	59,167
Dentists	60.0	143,745
Dental Hygienists	27.6	31,920
Behavioral Health Specialists [#]	78.1	65,745
Pharmacy	84.6	N/A
Total Enabling Services [†]	372.5	135,824
Other Staff	1,817.0	N/A
Total	3,036.0	1,713,070

* 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	47,076	26,161
Diabetes mellitus	63,742	23,335
Heart Disease (Selected)	10,783	4,888
Asthma	15,915	10,038
Depression & Other Mood Disorders	41,798	16,621
All Mental Health & Substance Abuse	90,236	N/A
Preventive Services		
Health Supervision Ages 0-11*	141,065	85,190
Selected Immunizations [#]	178,922	131,436
Oral Dental Exams	77,333	60,684
Pap Test	50,487	46,826
Mammogram	3,696	3,562
HIV Test	17,795	16,648

* 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	86%
Preventive Dental Care	86%
Mental Health Treatment/Counseling	86%
Substance Abuse Treatment & Counseling	71%
Hearing Screening	93%
Vision Screening	93%
Pharmacy	64%
Preventive Services	
Smoking Cessation Program	100%
HIV Testing And Counseling	100%
Glycosylated Hemoglobin Measurement, Diabetes	86%
Blood Pressure Monitoring	100%
Blood Cholesterol Screening	79%
Weight Reduction Program	100%
Enabling Services	
Case Management	100%
Eligibility Assistance	100%
Health Education	100%
Interpretation/Translation Services	100%
Transportation	43%
Out stationed Eligibility Workers	64%

* "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*	\$439
Dental Costs per Dental Patient	\$382
Total Cost per Total Patient [#]	\$686

Average Cost per Patient Visit	
Medical Cost per Medical Patient Visit	\$147
Dental Costs per Dental Patient Visit	\$167

* 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.

Data reflected on this fact sheet are from the UDS information available at the time this fact sheet was compiled. Slight variations from other sources may occur.

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.cchn.org.

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