

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

Massachusetts Federally-Supported Health Centers, 2008

Number of Organizations	36
Number of Delivery Sites	333
Total Patients	535,255
Number Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Patients	2,677
Number Homeless Patients	28,710

	Health Center Population	State Population ³	US Population ³
Percent at or Below 100% of Poverty	61%	15%	17%
Percent Under 200% of Poverty	90%	30%	32%
Percent Uninsured	21%	5%	15%
Percent Medicaid	42%	17%	14%
Percent Medicare	8%	13%	12%
Percent Hispanic/Latino	30%	9%	15%
Percent African American	18%	7%	13%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	9%	5%	5%
Percent American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0%	1%
Percent White	45%	86%	80%
Percent Rural	6%	2%	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 Massachusetts Residents Served by Federally-Supported Health Centers⁴

Percent of Low Income, Uninsured, 2008	66%
Percent of Medicaid Beneficiaries, 2006	15%
Percent of Population at or Below 100% of Poverty, 2008	33%

Economic Benefits of Federally-Supported Health Centers

Wasted Expenditures on Avoidable Emergency Department Visits, 2006⁵	\$401,458,842
Economic Benefits Generated for Local Communities, 2006 ⁵	\$610,958,760

Massachusetts 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	363.4	1,171,119
NPs/PAs/CNMs	208.6	448,763
Nurses	460.4	201,378
Dentists	110.4	264,006
Dental Hygienists	37.1	53,283
Behavioral Health Specialists [#]	212.2	200,681
Pharmacy	94.5	N/A
Total Enabling Services [†]	652.4	157,602
Other Staff	3,468.7	N/A
Total	5,607.7	2,633,544

* 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	151,764	54,457
Diabetes mellitus	117,988	29,965
Heart Disease (Selected)	23,114	7,867
Asthma	50,592	22,551
Depression & Other Mood Disorders	121,087	28,255
All Mental Health & Substance Abuse	316,478	N/A
Preventive Services		
Health Supervision Ages 0-11*	104,098	60,022
Selected Immunizations [#]	172,997	116,637
Oral Dental Exams	86,214	69,322
Pap Test	68,991	60,675
Mammogram	26,260	20,154
HIV Test	26,708	24,133

* 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	97%
Prenatal Care	65%
Preventive Dental Care	74%
Mental Health Treatment/Counseling	76%
Substance Abuse Treatment & Counseling	68%
Hearing Screening	71%
Vision Screening	79%
Pharmacy	29%
Preventive Services	
Smoking Cessation Program	68%
HIV Testing And Counseling	94%
Glycosylated Hemoglobin Measurement, Diabetes	88%
Blood Pressure Monitoring	97%
Blood Cholesterol Screening	88%
Weight Reduction Program	85%
Enabling Services	
Case Management	97%
Eligibility Assistance	97%
Health Education	97%
Interpretation/Translation Services	94%
Transportation	62%
Out stationed Eligibility Workers	59%

* "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*	\$579
Dental Costs per Dental Patient	\$412
Total Cost per Total Patient [#]	\$1,004

Average Cost per Patient Visit	Cost
Medical Cost per Medical Patient Visit	\$155
Dental Costs per Dental Patient Visit	\$147

* 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.mepca.org.

This publication was supported by Grant/Cooperative Agreement Number U30CS16089 from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Primary Health Care (HRSA/BPHC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA/BPHC.