

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

New Mexico Federally-Supported Health Centers, 2008

Number of Organizations	15
Number of Delivery Sites	133
Total Patients	259,073
Number Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Patients	10,913
Number Homeless Patients	8,978

	Health Center Population	State Population ³	US Population ³
Percent at or Below 100% of Poverty	68%	22%	17%
Percent Under 200% of Poverty	88%	44%	32%
Percent Uninsured	39%	23%	15%
Percent Medicaid	26%	16%	14%
Percent Medicare	9%	12%	12%
Percent Hispanic/Latino	60%	45%	15%
Percent African American	1%	3%	13%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	1%	2%	5%
Percent American Indian/Alaska Native	6%	10%	1%
Percent White	65%	84%	80%
Percent Rural	72%	32%	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 New Mexico Residents Served by Federally-Supported Health Centers⁴

Percent of Low Income, Uninsured , 2008	35%
Percent of Medicaid Beneficiaries , 2006	11%
Percent of Population at or Below 100% of Poverty , 2008	41%

Economic Benefits of Federally-Supported Health Centers

Wasted Expenditures on Avoidable Emergency Department Visits , 2006 ⁵	\$132,027,370
Economic Benefits Generated for Local Communities, 2006 ⁶	\$192,466,789

New Mexico 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	117.5	421,917
NPs/PAs/CNMs	86.0	242,286
Nurses	121.1	46,508
Dentists	52.3	127,743
Dental Hygienists	24.0	27,670
Behavioral Health Specialists [#]	141.2	106,209
Pharmacy	48.6	N/A
Total Enabling Services [†]	195.2	42,351
Other Staff	1,153.2	N/A
Total	1,939.0	1,035,798

* 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	48,427	24,782
Diabetes mellitus	56,144	20,477
Heart Disease (Selected)	10,395	4,192
Asthma	7,759	5,178
Depression & Other Mood Disorders	47,167	11,477
All Mental Health & Substance Abuse	143,928	N/A
Preventive Services		
Health Supervision Ages 0-11*	41,435	26,767
Selected Immunizations [#]	56,473	46,095
Oral Dental Exams	56,078	42,791
Pap Test	21,893	20,784
Mammogram	765	703
HIV Test	3,395	3,291

* 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	73%
Preventive Dental Care	100%
Mental Health Treatment/Counseling	87%
Substance Abuse Treatment & Counseling	73%
Hearing Screening	87%
Vision Screening	87%
Pharmacy	60%
Preventive Services	
Smoking Cessation Program	80%
HIV Testing And Counseling	93%
Glycosylated Hemoglobin Measurement, Diabetes	93%
Blood Pressure Monitoring	93%
Blood Cholesterol Screening	87%
Weight Reduction Program	87%
Enabling Services	
Case Management	87%
Eligibility Assistance	100%
Health Education	100%
Interpretation/Translation Services	100%
Transportation	47%
Out stationed Eligibility Workers	80%

* "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	
Medical Costs per Medical Patient*	\$401
Dental Costs per Dental Patient	\$413
Total Cost per Total Patient [#]	\$611
Average Cost per Patient Visit	
Medical Cost per Medical Patient Visit	\$129
Dental Costs per Dental Patient Visit	\$161

* 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.nmpca.org.

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