

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

South Carolina Federally-Supported Health Centers, 2008

Number of Organizations	21
Number of Delivery Sites	163
Total Patients	296,039
Number Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Patients	9,056
Number Homeless Patients	10,374

	Health Center Population	State Population ³	US Population ³
Percent at or Below 100% of Poverty	73%	19%	17%
Percent Under 200% of Poverty	93%	40%	32%
Percent Uninsured	40%	16%	15%
Percent Medicaid	30%	13%	14%
Percent Medicare	11%	14%	12%
Percent Hispanic/Latino	9%	4%	15%
Percent African American	55%	28%	13%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	1%	1%	5%
Percent American Indian/Alaska Native	0%	0%	1%
Percent White	29%	69%	80%
Percent Rural	69%	33%	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 South Carolina Residents Served by Federally-Supported Health Centers⁴

Percent of Low Income, Uninsured , 2008	24%
Percent of Medicaid Beneficiaries , 2006	10%
Percent of Population at or Below 100% of Poverty , 2008	25%

Economic Benefits of Federally-Supported Health Centers

Wasted Expenditures on Avoidable Emergency Department Visits , 2006 ⁵	\$265,008,761
Economic Benefits Generated for Local Communities, 2006 ⁶	\$201,023,876

South Carolina 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	167.8	680,019
NPs/PAs/CNMs	79.7	239,460
Nurses	295.6	71,029
Dentists	10.7	25,916
Dental Hygienists	7.5	7,319
Behavioral Health Specialists [#]	22.3	27,644
Pharmacy	66.0	N/A
Total Enabling Services [†]	132.2	75,260
Other Staff	1,008.3	N/A
Total	1,790.1	1,134,603

* 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	128,603	58,354
Diabetes mellitus	78,412	28,020
Heart Disease (Selected)	13,665	7,342
Asthma	19,854	10,311
Depression & Other Mood Disorders	16,521	7,455
All Mental Health & Substance Abuse	46,971	N/A
Preventive Services		
Health Supervision Ages 0-11*	72,188	36,822
Selected Immunizations [#]	95,201	50,724
Oral Dental Exams	15,017	12,589
Pap Test	27,314	24,254
Mammogram	8,447	7,856
HIV Test	7,863	7,149

* 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	77%
Preventive Dental Care	41%
Mental Health Treatment/Counseling	82%
Substance Abuse Treatment & Counseling	55%
Hearing Screening	86%
Vision Screening	95%
Pharmacy	59%

Preventive Services	
Smoking Cessation Program	32%
HIV Testing And Counseling	91%
Glycosylated Hemoglobin Measurement, Diabetes	95%
Blood Pressure Monitoring	100%
Blood Cholesterol Screening	100%
Weight Reduction Program	77%

Enabling Services	
Case Management	91%
Eligibility Assistance	86%
Health Education	100%
Interpretation/Translation Services	95%
Transportation	59%
Out stationed Eligibility Workers	50%

* "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*	\$359
Dental Costs per Dental Patient	\$359
Total Cost per Total Patient [#]	\$498

Average Cost per Patient Visit	
Medical Cost per Medical Patient Visit	\$112
Dental Costs per Dental Patient Visit	\$159

* 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.scpca.org.

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