

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

Washington Federally-Supported Health Centers, 2008

Number of Organizations	25
Number of Delivery Sites	232
Total Patients	664,795
Number Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Patients	96,242
Number Homeless Patients	66,934

	Health Center Population	State Population ³	US Population ³
Percent at or Below 100% of Poverty	70%	14%	17%
Percent Under 200% of Poverty	93%	30%	32%
Percent Uninsured	33%	12%	15%
Percent Medicaid	42%	13%	14%
Percent Medicare	6%	11%	12%
Percent Hispanic/Latino	39%	10%	15%
Percent African American	7%	4%	13%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	7%	7%	5%
Percent American Indian/Alaska Native	2%	2%	1%
Percent White	46%	84%	80%
Percent Rural	42%	8%	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 Washington Residents Served by Federally-Supported Health Centers⁴

Percent of Low Income, Uninsured , 2008	46%
Percent of Medicaid Beneficiaries , 2006	21%
Percent of Population at or Below 100% of Poverty , 2008	52%

Economic Benefits of Federally-Supported Health Centers

Wasted Expenditures on Avoidable Emergency Department Visits , 2006 ⁵	\$354,817,611
Economic Benefits Generated for Local Communities, 2006 ⁶	\$610,452,536

Washington 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	307.2	1,057,930
NPs/PAs/CNMs	205.0	621,524
Nurses	340.5	127,364
Dentists	173.2	491,378
Dental Hygienists	38.5	41,257
Behavioral Health Specialists [#]	185.7	120,390
Pharmacy	214.9	N/A
Total Enabling Services [†]	495.1	147,819
Other Staff	3,411.6	N/A
Total	5,371.8	2,687,747

* 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	81,980	43,708
Diabetes mellitus	102,435	35,941
Heart Disease (Selected)	19,354	8,106
Asthma	23,030	14,926
Depression & Other Mood Disorders	97,438	33,910
All Mental Health & Substance Abuse	242,135	N/A
Preventive Services		
Health Supervision Ages 0-11*	172,751	96,398
Selected Immunizations [#]	193,240	145,096
Oral Dental Exams	259,051	196,710
Pap Test	62,557	58,696
Mammogram	7,031	6,623
HIV Test	13,280	12,969

* 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	80%
Preventive Dental Care	92%
Mental Health Treatment/Counseling	96%
Substance Abuse Treatment & Counseling	52%
Hearing Screening	84%
Vision Screening	92%
Pharmacy	80%
Preventive Services	
Smoking Cessation Program	68%
HIV Testing And Counseling	100%
Glycosylated Hemoglobin Measurement, Diabetes	84%
Blood Pressure Monitoring	96%
Blood Cholesterol Screening	76%
Weight Reduction Program	80%
Enabling Services	
Case Management	96%
Eligibility Assistance	100%
Health Education	100%
Interpretation/Translation Services	100%
Transportation	56%
Out stationed Eligibility Workers	52%

* "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*	\$493
Dental Costs per Dental Patient	\$437
Total Cost per Total Patient [#]	\$746
Average Cost per Patient Visit	
Medical Cost per Medical Patient Visit	\$151
Dental Costs per Dental Patient Visit	\$175

* 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.wacmhc.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.