

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

Wisconsin Federally-Supported Health Centers, 2008

Number of Organizations	16
Number of Delivery Sites	81
Total Patients	196,227
Number Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Patients	1,232
Number Homeless Patients	13,325

	Health Center Population	State Population ³	US Population ³
Percent at or Below 100% of Poverty	61%	14%	17%
Percent Under 200% of Poverty	92%	31%	32%
Percent Uninsured	31%	9%	15%
Percent Medicaid	48%	13%	14%
Percent Medicare	8%	13%	12%
Percent Hispanic/Latino	21%	5%	15%
Percent African American	23%	6%	13%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	2%	2%	5%
Percent American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	1%	1%
Percent White	34%	90%	80%
Percent Rural	44%	24%	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 Wisconsin Residents Served by Federally-Supported Health Centers⁴

Percent of Low Income, Uninsured , 2008	19%
Percent of Medicaid Beneficiaries , 2006	7%
Percent of Population at or Below 100% of Poverty , 2008	16%

Economic Benefits of Federally-Supported Health Centers

Wasted Expenditures on Avoidable Emergency Department Visits , 2006 ⁵	\$272,179,576
Economic Benefits Generated for Local Communities, 2006 ⁶	\$229,500,072

Wisconsin 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	143.3	411,154
NPs/PAs/CNMs	63.0	136,966
Nurses	87.5	29,022
Dentists	46.9	118,819
Dental Hygienists	36.5	32,604
Behavioral Health Specialists [#]	42.1	46,512
Pharmacy	49.5	N/A
Total Enabling Services [†]	105.4	33,125
Other Staff	1,155.6	N/A
Total	1,729.5	839,047

* 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	36,795	13,186
Diabetes mellitus	40,102	10,279
Heart Disease (Selected)	16,748	4,834
Asthma	9,503	4,893
Depression & Other Mood Disorders	33,393	8,461
All Mental Health & Substance Abuse	82,578	N/A
Preventive Services		
Health Supervision Ages 0-11*	46,292	28,338
Selected Immunizations [#]	54,515	38,713
Oral Dental Exams	58,850	47,180
Pap Test	16,870	15,894
Mammogram	3,739	3,642
HIV Test	8,548	7,856

* 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	94%
Prenatal Care	69%
Preventive Dental Care	63%
Mental Health Treatment/Counseling	63%
Substance Abuse Treatment & Counseling	38%
Hearing Screening	81%
Vision Screening	88%
Pharmacy	19%
Preventive Services	
Smoking Cessation Program	63%
HIV Testing And Counseling	81%
Glycosylated Hemoglobin Measurement, Diabetes	88%
Blood Pressure Monitoring	94%
Blood Cholesterol Screening	81%
Weight Reduction Program	81%
Enabling Services	
Case Management	88%
Eligibility Assistance	88%
Health Education	88%
Interpretation/Translation Services	81%
Transportation	38%
Out stationed Eligibility Workers	63%

* "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*	\$669
Dental Costs per Dental Patient	\$507
Total Cost per Total Patient [#]	\$936

Average Cost per Patient Visit	Cost
Medical Cost per Medical Patient Visit	\$196
Dental Costs per Dental Patient Visit	\$198

* 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.

There is a Minnesota grantee with a service delivery site in Wisconsin that is not reflected in this data. If you have questions about this, please contact Charles Kostlevy at WPHCA at 608-277-7477.

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.wphca.org.

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