



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
- are **cost effective**, reducing costly emergency, hospital, and specialty care, and **saving the health care system between \$9.9 to \$17.6 billion a year nationally.**²

U.S. Health Centers

Approximate Number of Organizations	1,200
Approximate Number of Delivery Sites	7,000
Total Patients	18 million
Number Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Patients	936,000
Number Homeless Patients	1 million

	Health Center Population	US Population ³
Percent at or Below 100% of Poverty , 2007	70%	17%
Percent Under 200% of Poverty , 2007	91%	36%
Percent Uninsured , 2007	39%	12%
Percent Medicaid , 2007	35%	13%
Percent Medicare , 2007	8%	15%
Percent Hispanic/Latino , 2007*	34%	15%
Percent African American , 2007*	28%	13%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander , 2007*	4%	5%
Percent American Indian/Alaska Native , 2007*	1%	1%
Percent White (Including Hispanic/Latino), 2007*	62%	80%
Percent Rural , 2007	44%	16%

* May not sum to 100% due to rounding and non-inclusion of two or more races. 0% may indicate <0.5%.
Health center racial and ethnic population data may vary from last year due to changes in reporting.

Percent of Vulnerable U.S. Residents Served by Federally-Supported Health Centers⁴

Percent of Low Income, Uninsured , 2007	21%
Percent of Medicaid Beneficiaries , 2005	6%
Percent of Population at or Below 100% of Poverty , 2007	16%

Economic Benefits of U.S. Federally-Supported Health Centers

Wasted Expenditures on Avoidable Emergency Department Visits , 2006 ⁵	\$18.4 billion
Economic Benefits Generated for Local Communities, 2006 ²	\$12.6 billion

U.S. Health Center Fact Sheet

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	7,994.1	30,466,259
NPs/PAs/CNMs	4,692.9	13,459,408
Nurses	8,775.9	2,956,734
Dentists	2,107.5	5,623,942
Dental Hygienists	806.0	1,080,580
Behavioral Health Specialists [#]	3,412.6	3,711,265
Pharmacy	2,165.8	N/A
Total Enabling Services [†]	10,632	4,546,235
Other Staff	64,336.3	N/A
Total	104,923	63,036,475

* 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
<i>Medical Conditions</i>		
Hypertension	3,651,505	1,584,992
Diabetes mellitus	3,152,953	1,010,844
Heart Disease (Selected)	582,144	237,212
Asthma	830,991	470,874
Depression & Other Mood Disorders	1,577,220	506,442
All Mental Health & Substance Abuse	4,450,166	N/A
<i>Preventive Services</i>		
Health Supervision Ages 0-11*	3,768,442	2,157,290
Selected Immunizations [#]	4,226,409	2,909,291
Oral Dental Exams	2,688,743	2,012,439
Pap Test	1,751,196	1,585,103
Mammogram	591,305	270,884
HIV Test	551,984	503,887

* Well child visits. [#] Includes DPT, MMR, polio, influenza, hepatitis A & B, HiB, etc.

Percent of Health Centers Providing Select Services Onsite*

<i>Professional Services</i>	
General Primary Medical Care	100%
Prenatal Care	70%
Preventive Dental Care	74%
Mental Health Treatment/Counseling	77%
Substance Abuse Treatment & Counseling	51%
Hearing Screening	86%
Vision Screening	93%
Pharmacy	35%
<i>Preventive Services</i>	
Smoking Cessation Program	58%
HIV Testing And Counseling	92%
Glycosylated Hemoglobin Measurement, Diabetes	86%
Blood Pressure Monitoring	99%
Blood Cholesterol Screening	89%
Weight Reduction Program	77%
<i>Enabling Services</i>	
Case Management	91%
Eligibility Assistance	89%
Health Education	98%
Interpretation/Translation Services	89%
Transportation	54%
Out stationed Eligibility Workers	39%

* "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.

Health Center Costs of Care

<i>Average Cost per Patient</i>	
Medical Costs per Medical Patient*	\$386
Dental Costs per Dental Patient	\$344
Total Cost per Total Patient [#]	\$562
<i>Average Cost per Patient Visit</i>	
Medical Cost per Medical Patient Visit	\$123
Dental Costs per Dental Patient Visit	\$144

* Excludes lab and x-ray as in previous years.

[#] Includes the total cost of all services over total users.

Sources and Notes

Page 1 of this fact sheet includes NACHC estimates of patients of federally and non-federally funded health centers and expected patient growth for 2008. Data from federally funded health centers - including all data on **page 2** - are based on Bureau of Primary Health Care, HRSA, DHHS, 2007 Uniform Data System (UDS). UDS 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 on this page may underreport the true volume of care delivered by health centers.

¹ See the NACHC 2008 Chart Book at www.nachc.com/research.

² NACHC, Robert Graham Center, and Capital Link, *Access Granted*, August 2007, <http://www.nachc.com/research-reports.cfm>.

³ Urban Institute and Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured estimates based on Census Bureau's March 2007 and 2008 Current Population Survey. See 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 2007. Released May 2008. <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/>.

⁴ Compares health center 2005 and 2007 UDS to 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 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. <http://www.nachc.com/research>.

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