

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

California Federally-Supported Health Centers, 2008

Number of Organizations	113
Number of Delivery Sites	1049
Total Patients	2,521,822
Number Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker Patients	357,153
Number Homeless Patients	194,382

	Health Center Population	State Population ³	US Population ³
Percent at or Below 100% of Poverty	76%	20%	17%
Percent Under 200% of Poverty	95%	40%	32%
Percent Uninsured	44%	19%	15%
Percent Medicaid	39%	17%	14%
Percent Medicare	5%	9%	12%
Percent Hispanic/Latino	61%	37%	15%
Percent African American	7%	7%	13%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	6%	13%	5%
Percent American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	1%	1%
Percent White	49%	77%	80%
Percent Rural	43%	2%	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 California Residents Served by Federally-Supported Health Centers⁴

Percent of Low Income, Uninsured , 2008	24%
Percent of Medicaid Beneficiaries , 2006	8%
Percent of Population at or Below 100% of Poverty , 2008	27%

Economic Benefits of Federally-Supported Health Centers

Wasted Expenditures on Avoidable Emergency Department Visits , 2006 ⁵	\$1,829,345,794
Economic Benefits Generated for Local Communities, 2006 ⁶	\$2,037,609,155

California 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	1,190.1	4,796,705
NPs/PAs/CNMs	712.9	2,512,105
Nurses	665.0	252,866
Dentists	342.0	1,112,628
Dental Hygienists	32.6	42,694
Behavioral Health Specialists [#]	432.5	388,497
Pharmacy	229.8	N/A
Total Enabling Services [†]	2,119.7	998,482
Other Staff	11,898.0	N/A
Total	17,622.5	10,520,013

* 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	453,912	192,175
Diabetes mellitus	548,811	158,833
Heart Disease (Selected)	66,040	26,358
Asthma	135,420	74,690
Depression & Other Mood Disorders	213,952	67,268
All Mental Health & Substance Abuse	614,417	N/A
Preventive Services		
Health Supervision Ages 0-11*	677,010	391,641
Selected Immunizations [#]	727,370	509,219
Oral Dental Exams	448,176	295,161
Pap Test	315,033	280,376
Mammogram	59,173	55,337
HIV Test	99,347	91,298

* 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	99%
Prenatal Care	80%
Preventive Dental Care	74%
Mental Health Treatment/Counseling	77%
Substance Abuse Treatment & Counseling	46%
Hearing Screening	94%
Vision Screening	95%
Pharmacy	33%
Preventive Services	
Smoking Cessation Program	54%
HIV Testing And Counseling	95%
Glycosylated Hemoglobin Measurement, Diabetes	84%
Blood Pressure Monitoring	98%
Blood Cholesterol Screening	86%
Weight Reduction Program	77%
Enabling Services	
Case Management	99%
Eligibility Assistance	94%
Health Education	99%
Interpretation/Translation Services	95%
Transportation	65%
Out stationed Eligibility Workers	47%

* "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*	\$423
Dental Costs per Dental Patient	\$399
Total Cost per Total Patient [#]	\$624
Average Cost per Patient Visit	
Medical Cost per Medical Patient Visit	\$130
Dental Costs per Dental Patient Visit	\$142

* 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.

more than a quarter of which are located in California

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.cpca.org.

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