Snapshot:
Health Centers Provide Better or Equal Care Compared to Other Primary Care Providers

Health centers offer high-quality care and effectively manage patients’ health care needs. Their patients receive more preventive services than patients of other primary care providers, despite the fact that health centers serve traditionally underserved and at-risk patient populations.¹

Health centers also meet or exceed national practice standards for the treatment of chronic illness. A recent national study² compared health centers to private practice primary care physicians on 18 process-of-care measures frequently used to evaluate performance. Before adjusting for patient characteristics, health centers performed statistically better on six measures (including blood pressure screening and depression management) but worse on diet counseling to at-risk adolescents. Accounting for patient differences revealed that health centers performed better on the six measures and no differently than private practice physicians on the other measures (see figure below).

![Health Centers Perform Better on Ambulatory Care Quality Measures than Private Practice Physicians](chart)

Note: Statistically Significant at 0.05 level. Based on 2006-2008 National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS)