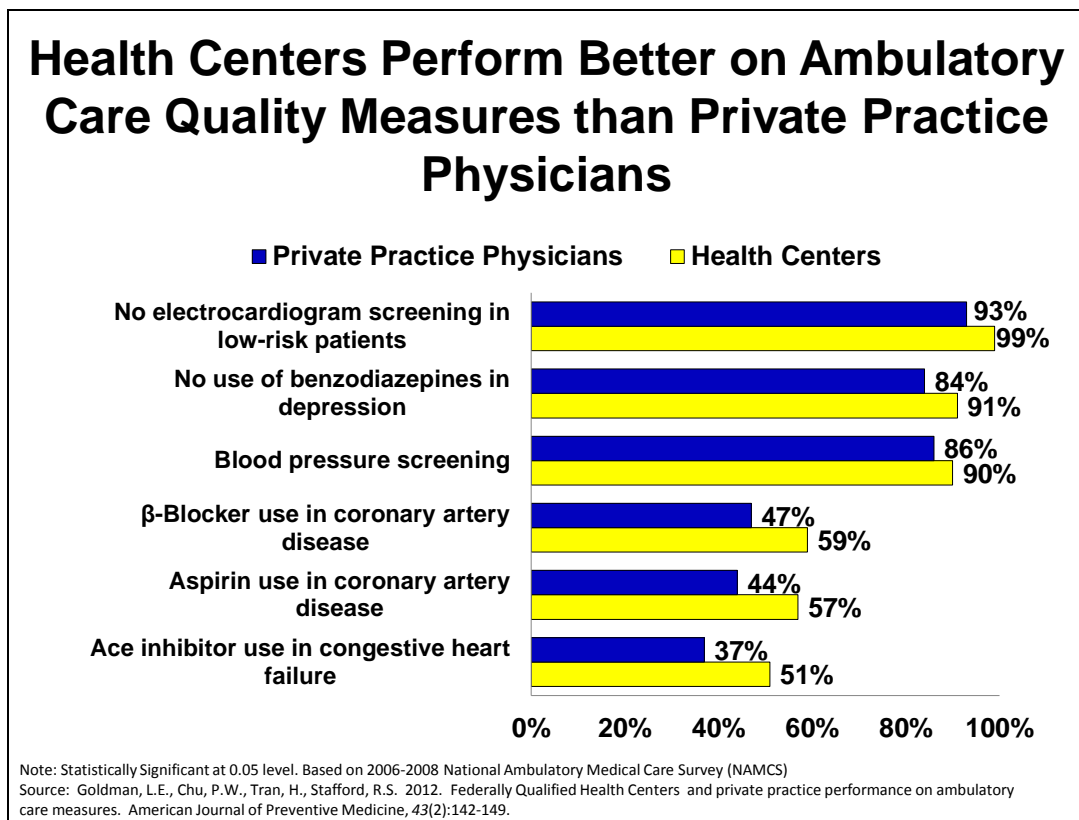


Snapshot: Health Centers Provide Better or Equal Care Compared to Other Primary Care Providers

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).



¹Dor, A., Pylypchuck, Y., Shin, P., and Rosenbaum, S. Uninsured and Medicaid Patients' Access to Preventive Care: Comparison of Health Centers and Other Primary Care Providers. Geiger Gibson/RCHN Community Health Foundation Research Brief #4. August 2008.

²Goldman, L.E., Chu, P.W., Tran, H., Stafford, R.S. 2012. Federally Qualified Health Centers and Private Practice Performance on Ambulatory Care Measures. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 43(2):142-149.