



What are Community Health Centers?

Community health centers (CHCs) deliver high-quality, affordable care to patients and reduce costs for America’s healthcare system. Health centers are consumer-governed, patient-centered health care organizations that provide cost-effective primary care in populations with limited access to health care. Health centers ensure access to patients regardless of income and insurance status by offering services on a sliding-fee scale. Health centers improve access to primary care as well as integrated specialty services such as preventive, behavioral, substance use treatment, oral, vision and pharmacy services. Additionally, health centers offer a host of ancillary services to support patients’ needs around food insecurity, housing, transportation, serving individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and other non-clinical factors of health. **Health centers...**

- Serve as the health care home for **52 million patients[^]** in over **17,000 communities** across the country
- **Integrate medical, specialty and social services** such as mental health, substance use treatment, oral health, case management, translation services, transportation, and employment services
- Reduce health care costs, **saving an average of 24% per Medicaid patient** compared to other providers**
- Create **340,000 jobs** and generate an estimated **\$118.4 billion in total economic impact** in local communities**
- Provide care to **428,000 veterans**, **1.5 million** homeless individuals, **4.1 million** adults over age 65, and nearly **10 million children**.

Health Centers in Alabama

AL Health Centers

Total Health Centers	19
Service Delivery Sites	207
% Rural	47%
% with MOUD Services	26%
% Utilizing Telehealth	95%

AL Patients

Children	92,455
Older adults	43,409
Homeless individuals	8,193
Veterans	6,623
Agricultural workers	6,192
Total patients	344,203

AL Services and Staff

Physicians	144
NPs/PAs/CNMs	255
Nurses	335
Behavioral Health Specialists	590
Pharmacy	257
Dental	158
Vision	18
Enabling Services	322
Other	8
Total FTEs*	3,444

	Health Center Population	State Population
Below Poverty Level	50%	15%
Uninsured	25%	8%
Medicaid	32%	18%
Medicare	13%	21%
Dually Eligible	5%	
Private Insurance	29%	68%

*FTEs = Full Time Equivalents **Notes:** Data includes health centers receiving Health Center Program Section 330 grants and Look-Alikes.

Sources: 2024 Uniform Data System, BPHC, HRSA, DHHS. 2024 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.

** National Association of Community Health Centers. (2025, January). The value and impact of the National Health Center Program. https://www.nachc.org/nachc-content/uploads/2025/01/PolicyPapers_NationalValueImpact_FINAL_Jan2025.pdf

[^] Masselli, M., & Shin, P. (2025, August). How many patients do Community Health Centers really care for? You'll be surprised! Moses/Weitzman Health System & National Association of Community Health Centers. https://www.mwhs1.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/The-Real-CHC-Patient-Base_080525_final.pdf