



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 Alaska

AK Health Centers

Total Health Centers	29
Service Delivery Sites	217
% Rural	93%
% with MOUD Services	66%
% Utilizing Telehealth	97%

AK Patients

Children	27,193
Older adults	21,960
Homeless Individuals	3,149
Veterans	4,185
Agricultural workers	430
Total patients	115,173

AK Services and Staff

Physicians	238
NPs/PAs/CNMs	324
Nurses	213
Behavioral Health Specialists	537
Pharmacy	303
Dental	608
Vision	10
Enabling Services	477
Other	76
Total FTEs*	6,064

	Health Center Population	State Population
Below Poverty Level	21%	10%
Uninsured	16%	11%
Medicaid	35%	20%
Medicare	16%	16%
Dually Eligible	6%	
Private Insurance	32%	66%

*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