



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 South Carolina

SC Health Centers

Total Health Centers	25
Service Delivery Sites	310
% Rural	44%
% with MOUD Services	56%
% Utilizing Telehealth	100%

SC Patients

Children	119,185
Older adults	76,139
Homeless Individuals	12,670
Veterans	8,899
Agricultural workers	10,697
Total patients	450,123

SC Services and Staff

Physicians	191
NPs/PAs/CNMs	405
Nurses	577
Behavioral Health Specialists	981
Pharmacy	331
Dental	237
Vision	11
Enabling Services	571
Other	21
Total FTEs*	5,797

	Health Center Population	State Population
Below Poverty Level	43%	13%
Uninsured	25%	9%
Medicaid	28%	19%
Medicare	19%	22%
Dually Eligible	6%	
Private Insurance	28%	67%

*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