



Bureau of Primary Health Care

Health Resources & Services Administration

For the past 50 years, health centers have delivered comprehensive, high-quality preventive and primary health care to patients regardless of their ability to pay. During that time, health centers have become the essential primary care medical home for millions of Americans including some of the nation's most vulnerable populations. Health centers continue to be an integral source of local employment and economic growth.

Delivery of Care: Increased Access to Health Services

Today, more than 1,300 health centers operate approximately 9,000 service delivery sites that provide care to nearly 23 million patients in every U.S. State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Basin.

Overall, since the beginning of 2009, health centers have increased the total number of patients served on an annual basis by nearly 6 million people, increasing the number of patients served from 17million to 23million annually..

This network of health centers has created one of the largest safety net systems of primary and preventive care in the country with a true national impact.

- **Health centers, supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), treated approximately 23 million people in 2014**, fifty percent of whom are members of ethnic and minority groups. Twenty-eight percent have no health insurance; thirty-one percent are children.
- **One out of every 14 people living in the U.S. now relies on a HRSA-funded clinic for primary care.**
- Health centers are an **integral source of local employment and economic growth**

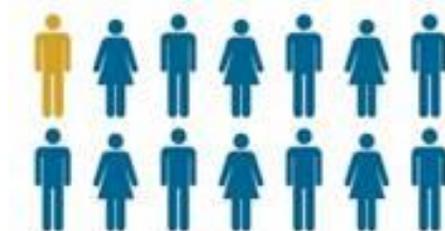
For more information about the Bureau of Primary Health Care:

Visit the website:
<http://bphc.hrsa.gov>

To locate a health center:

Use the Find a Health Center application:
<http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>

Today, **1 in 14** people receive care at a health center nationwide



Source: [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Uniform Data System, 2014.](#)

in many underserved and low-income communities. Total health center employment is more than 170,000 individuals nationwide, and health centers added more than 38,000 jobs over the last five years.

- Health centers employ more than 11,200 physicians and more than 9,000 nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives in a **multi-disciplinary clinical workforce** designed to treat the whole patient through culturally-competent, accessible, and integrated care.

Health center quality of care equals and often surpasses that provided by other primary care providers. A programmatic emphasis on quality improvement as well as community-responsive and culturally appropriate care has also translated into impressive reductions in health disparities for health center patients. Calendar Year 2014 Health Center Program data demonstrate that centers continue to provide high quality care and improve patient outcomes, while reducing disparities, despite serving a population that is often sicker and more at risk than seen nationally:

- In 2014, the percent of low birthweight babies, at 7.3 percent, continues to be lower than national estimates (7.80 percent).
- The rate of entry into prenatal care in the first trimester increased from 65 percent in 2008 to 72 percent in 2014.
- 69 percent of health center patients demonstrated control over their diabetes with a hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) level less than or equal to 9.
- 64 percent of hypertensive health center patients have their blood pressure under control.

Health centers also reduce costs to health systems; the health center model of care has been shown to reduce the use of costlier providers of care, such as emergency departments (EDs) and hospitals.

The Affordable Care Act: The Essential Role of Community Health Centers

The Affordable Care Act established the Community Health Center Fund that provides \$11 billion over a 5 year period for the operation, expansion, and construction of health centers throughout the Nation.

- \$9.5 billion is targeted to:
 - Support ongoing health center operations.
 - Create new health center sites in medically underserved areas.
 - Expand preventive and primary health care services, including oral health, behavioral health, pharmacy, and/or enabling services, at existing health center sites.
- \$1.5 billion will support major construction and renovation projects at community health centers nationwide.

Health centers are poised to play an essential role in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. In particular, health centers emphasize coordinated primary and preventive services or a “medical home” that promotes reductions in health disparities for low-income individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, rural communities and other underserved populations. Health centers place emphasis on the coordination and comprehensiveness of care, the ability to manage patients with multiple health care needs, and the use of key quality improvement practices, including health information technology. The health center model also overcomes geographic, cultural, linguistic and other barriers through a team-based approach to care that includes physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, dental

providers, midwives, behavioral health care providers, social workers, health educators, and many others.

Affordable Care Act Funding for Health Centers

To date for FY 2016, through the Affordable Care Act, the Health Center Program announced the following new funding:

- **Health Center Substance Abuse Service Expansion:** In July 2015, HRSA announced the availability of \$100 million to support approximately 300 health centers across the country to improve and expand the delivery of substance abuse services provided by existing Health Center Program award recipients, with a focus on Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT) in opioid use disorders.

To date in FY 2015, through the Affordable Care Act, the Health Center Program awarded the following funding:

- **Health Center New Access Points :** In August 2015, HRSA announced \$169 million from the Affordable Care Act has been awarded to establish an estimated 266 new health center sites across the country. This is in addition to \$101 million awarded in May 2015 to establish 164 new sites. The addition of new health centers will increase access to comprehensive, affordable, high quality primary health care services in the communities that need it most.
- **Health Center Quality Improvement Awards:** In December 2014, HRSA awarded \$36.3 million in Affordable Care Act funding to 1,113 health centers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and seven U.S. Territories to recognize health center quality improvement achievements and invest in ongoing quality improvement activities. The health centers that received awards are proven leaders in areas such as chronic disease management, preventive care and the use of Electronic Health Records (EHRs) to report quality data.
- **Health Center Mental Health Service Expansion - Behavioral Health Integration Awards:** In November 2014, HRSA awarded \$51.3 million in Affordable Care Act funding to support 210 health centers in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to establish or expand behavioral health services for nearly 440,000 people nationwide. Health centers will use these funds for efforts such as hiring new mental health professionals, adding mental health and substance use disorder health services, and employing integrated models of primary care.
- **Health Center Outreach and Enrollment Assistance supplemental funding opportunity:** In October 2014, HRSA awarded approximately \$6.4 million in formula-based supplements through the Affordable Care Act to 91 health centers that did not receive supplemental outreach and enrollment funding in FY 2013. These health centers are expected to use these awards to hire an additional 115 outreach and eligibility assistance workers to assist over 166,000 people with enrollment into affordable health coverage.