



What are Community Health Centers?

Community health centers 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 medically underserved communities. 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, language access, and other social determinants of health. **Health centers...**

- Serve as the health care home for nearly **32.5 million patients** in over **16,000 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 **419,000 veterans**, **1.4 million** patients experiencing homelessness, **3.8 million** adults over age 65, and **1 in 9 children**.

Health Centers in North Carolina

NC Health Centers

Total Health Centers	43
Service Delivery Sites	567
% Rural	53%
% with MOUD Services	63%
% Utilizing Telehealth	100%

NC Patients

Children	152,507
Older adults	131,071
Patients experiencing homelessness	16,334
Veterans	11,673
Agricultural workers	40,677
Total patients	762,380

NC Services and Staff

Physicians	321
NPs/PAs/CNMs	487
Nurses	370
Behavioral Health Specialists	411
Pharmacy	384
Dental	406
Vision	0
Enabling Services	622
Other	18
Total FTEs*	6,522

	Health Center Population	State Population
Below Poverty Level	44%	12%
Uninsured	31%	9%
Medicaid	26%	19%
Medicare	17%	19%
Dually Eligible	4%	
Private Insurance	26%	67%

*FTEs = Full Time Equivalents **Notes:** Data includes health centers receiving Health Center Program Section 330 grants and Look-Alikes. **Sources:** 2023 Uniform Data System, BPHC, HRSA, DHHS. 2023 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau.