



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 Washington

WA Health Centers

Total Health Centers	27
Service Delivery Sites	419
% Rural	41%
% with MOUD Services	85%
% Utilizing Telehealth	96%

WA Patients

Children	352,798
Older adults	132,152
Patients experiencing homelessness	116,690
Veterans	24,211
Agricultural workers	99,249
Total patients	1,224,996

WA Services and Staff

Physicians	635
NPs/PAs/CNMs	574
Nurses	529
Behavioral Health Specialists	804
Pharmacy	778
Dental	1,534
Vision	28
Enabling Services	1,164
Other	98
Total FTEs*	12,964

	Health Center Population	State Population
Below Poverty Level	43%	10%
Uninsured	14%	6%
Medicaid	57%	21%
Medicare	10%	18%
Dually Eligible	4%	
Private Insurance	19%	70%

*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.