

# Research Shows Health Centers Produce Savings for Medicaid and Increase Access to High Quality Care for Medicaid Patients

- A 13-state study found that health centers save, on average, **\$2,371 (24%)** per Medicaid patient when compared to other providers. The authors also found that across these states, health center Medicaid patients have **lower utilization of and spending on all services measured**, including inpatient and other outpatient care, compared to non-health center Medicaid patients.  
*Nocon et al. Health care use and spending for Medicaid enrollees in federally qualified health centers versus other primary care settings. AJP. November 2016. 106(11): 1981-1989.*
- A national study measuring access to care found that in areas with greater increases in federal health center funding, patients with Medicaid are **less likely to delay seeking care due to cost**, are more likely to have a **usual source of primary care**, and are **less likely to rely on the emergency department** for care.  
*McMorrow S and Zuckerman S. Expanding federal funding to community health centers slows decline in access for low-income adults. Health Serv Res. 2014 Jun;49(3):992-1010.*
- A study of four California counties found that health center Medicaid managed care patients have **64% lower** rates of multi-day hospital re-admission, **18% lower** rates of emergency department visits, and **25% fewer** inpatient bed days, compared to patients at other providers.  
*California Primary Care Association. Value of community health centers study: Partnership HealthPlan of California case study. 2013 January.*
- A study exploring the cost effectiveness of community health centers in Michigan found that they **save \$144 per patient** in Medicaid spending annually, compared to non-health center Medicaid patients.  
*Mundt C, Yuan S. An evaluation of the cost efficiency of federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and FQHC look-alikes operating in Michigan. October 2014. The Institute for Health Policy at Michigan State University.*
- A study comparing Colorado health center Medicaid patients and those Medicaid patients seen by private providers found that health center Medicaid patients are **1/3 less likely** to use the emergency department, have in-patient hospitalizations, or preventable hospital admissions.  
*Rothkopf J et al. Medicaid patients seen at Federally Qualified Health Centers use hospital services less than those seen by private providers. Health Aff. 2011 July; 30(7): 1335 – 42.*
- A study of hypertension control efforts in primary care found that health centers **reduce disparities in Medicaid patients' receipt of new medications for uncontrolled hypertension** compared to privately insured patients.  
*Fontil et al. Management of hypertension in primary care safety-net clinics in the United States: A comparison of community health centers and private physicians' offices. Health Services Research. April 2017. 52:2.*
- A study exploring access to preventive care among Medicaid and uninsured patients found that health center patients covered by Medicaid are **more likely to receive preventive care services** such as mammographies and blood pressure screenings than Medicaid patients in other primary care settings.  
*Dor A, Pylpchuck Y, Shin P, Rosenbaum SJ. Uninsured and Medicaid patients' access to preventive care: Comparison of health centers and other primary care providers. Geiger Gibson/RCHN Community Health Foundation Research Collaborative. Policy Research Brief No. 4. August 2008.*
- A study of health centers and Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) found that on average, **health centers exceed Medicaid MCO high performance benchmark scores** for diabetes and blood control measures.  
*Shin P, Sharac J, Rosenbaum S J, Paradise J. Quality of care in community health centers and factors associated with performance. Geiger Gibson/RCHN Community Health Foundation Research Collaborative. Paper 45. June 2013.*

