



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 California

CA Health Centers

Total Health Centers	209
Service Delivery Sites	2432
% Rural	17%
% with MOUD Services	62%
% Utilizing Telehealth	100%

CA Patients

Children	1,651,044
Older adults	628,588
Patients experiencing homelessness	356,006
Veterans	34,186
Agricultural workers	524,723
Total patients	5,797,252

CA Services and Staff

Physicians	3,825
NPs/PAs/CNMs	2,695
Nurses	2,630
Behavioral Health Specialists	2,652
Pharmacy	860
Dental	4,108
Vision	429
Enabling Services	5,924
Other	835
Total FTEs*	60,724

	Health Center Population	State Population
Below Poverty Level	54%	12%
Uninsured	13%	6%
Medicaid	69%	27%
Medicare	8%	17%
Dually Eligible	5%	
Private Insurance	9%	63%

*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.