



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 Tennessee

TN Health Centers

Total Health Centers	30
Service Delivery Sites	231
% Rural	50%
% with MOUD Services	47%
% Utilizing Telehealth	100%

TN Patients

Children	94,232
Older adults	54,963
Patients experiencing homelessness	23,246
Veterans	5,402
Agricultural workers	7,644
Total patients	427,947

TN Services and Staff

Physicians	137
NPs/PAs/CNMs	333
Nurses	411
Behavioral Health Specialists	221
Pharmacy	114
Dental	128
Vision	4
Enabling Services	344
Other	7
Total FTEs*	3,386

	Health Center Population	State Population
Below Poverty Level	50%	14%
Uninsured	29%	9%
Medicaid	31%	20%
Medicare	13%	19%
Dually Eligible	4%	
Private Insurance	25%	66%

*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.