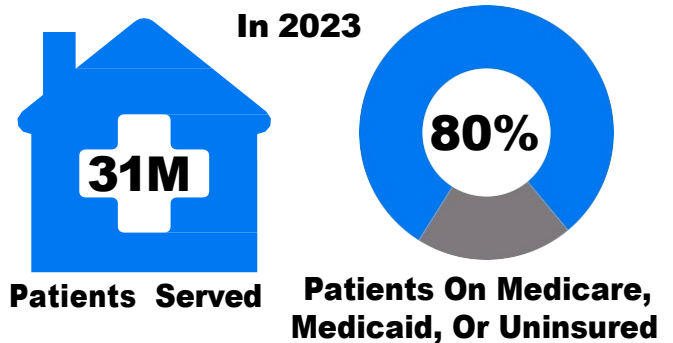
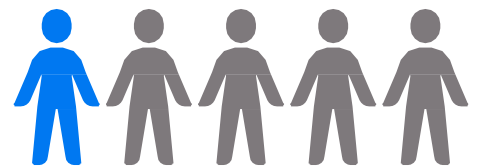
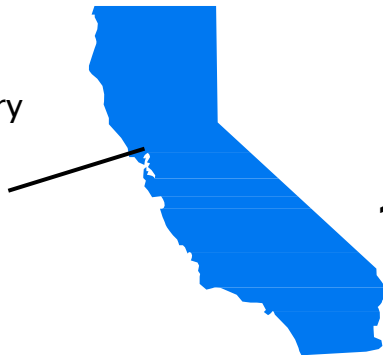


Community health centers (CHCs) are nonprofit primary care clinics that provide affordable and comprehensive health care services to communities regardless of insurance status. As the largest primary care system in the country – health centers served over 31 million Americans in 2023, 80 percent of which are on Medicare, Medicaid, or uninsured.ⁱ



California's CHCs are leading the nation in increasing access to affordable and comprehensive primary care. In 2023 -

California's 1,302 health center sites served 7.8 million patients – that is one in five Californians.



1 in 5 Californians Rely on CHCs

Community Health Centers (CHCs) that receive the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Health Center Program grant (otherwise known as **Section 330 grants**) are **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)**. Sec. 330 grants help FQHCs serve all patients who walk through the door.

- Sec. 330 grants are awarded to FQHCs to support care for uninsured and underinsured patients; services for low-income insured patients; new services or extended hours; new clinics in previously unserved communities; and expanded access to addiction treatment and recovery or mental health services programs.
- In 2023 – HRSA awarded \$5 billion in health center program grants to 1,363 health centers nationwide supporting 132.5 million patient visits.

FQHCs qualify for a specific reimbursement rate for seniors and working families through **Medicare and Medicaid** for covered services.

- Health centers in 2025 will receive around \$200 as reimbursement for a Medicare patient visit.ⁱⁱ
- When these same patients go to the emergency room for routine care, as patients without access to primary care are forced to do, Medicare pays an average of \$1,040 per visit.ⁱⁱⁱ
- CHCs **saved \$25.3B in taxpayer dollars in 2021** for Medicare and Medicaid programs. Under Medicare, CHCs patient costs are **10%-30% lower** than other patients. For Medicaid, CHCs **save 24% per patient** compared to other providers.^{iv}

CHCs are leading the health care industry in innovative cost savings while increasing affordable, quality care. CHCs are serving a record number of patients without an increase in funding. Investment in CHCs is the most effective and efficient route to addressing high costs in our health care system.

ⁱ https://www.nachc.org/nachc-content/uploads/2024/11/Americas-Health-Centers-2024_FINAL.pdf

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r12951cp.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb311-ED-visit-costs-2021.pdf>

^{iv} [4] Robert S. Nocon et al. (November 2016). “Health Care Use and Spending for Medicaid Enrollees in Federally Qualified Health Centers Versus Other Primary Care Settings,” *American Journal of Public Health* 106, (11), 1981–89. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2016.303341> [5] Dana B. Mukamel et al. (April 2016). “Comparing the Cost of Caring for Medicare Beneficiaries in Federally Funded Health Centers to Other Care Settings,” *Health Services Research* 51, (2), 625–44. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6773.12339> [6] Robert Nocon (Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine). (March 02, 2023). “Testimony on Community Health Centers: Saving Lives, Saving Money before the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.”