

# HRSA Health Center Program

## Health Center Overview

For more than 50 years, health centers have delivered affordable, accessible, quality, and value-based primary health care to millions of people regardless of their ability to pay. Not only are health centers serving 1 in 12 people across the country, the Health Center Program is leading the nation in driving quality improvement and reducing health care costs for America's taxpayers. Because health centers provide high quality primary care services across the country, the health center network is also called upon to support public health priorities such as the opioid crisis and the White House initiative, *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America*.

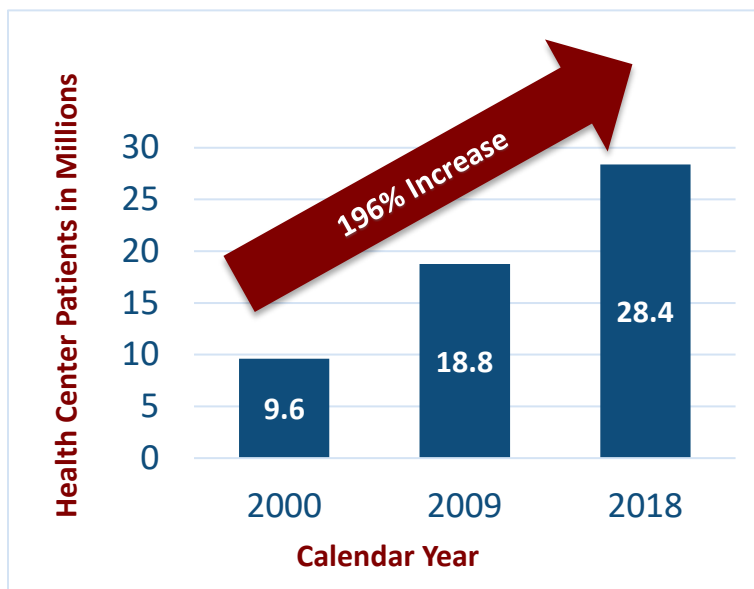
## Providing Value-Based Care to Millions Across the Nation

HRSA's investments have advanced the nation's health by ensuring more patients and communities each year have access to high quality, comprehensive primary care. Today, HRSA funds nearly 1,400 health centers operating approximately 12,000 service delivery sites in every U.S. state, U.S. territory, and the District of Columbia. In 2018, there were more than 236,000 full-time health center providers and staff serving nearly 28.4 million patients. In fact, health centers have almost tripled the number of patients served in 2000 when the program served approximately 9.6 million patients.

More than **28 million** people rely on a HRSA-funded health center for care, including:

- 1 in 12** PEOPLE
- 1 in 9** CHILDREN
- 1 in 5** RURAL RESIDENTS
- 1 in 3** LIVING IN POVERTY
- more than **385K** VETERANS

2018 UDS Data



## Driving Quality Improvement

The number of staff and patients is just one piece of the story. HRSA's quality improvement investments advance a model of coordinated, comprehensive, and patient-centered care, integrating medical, dental, behavioral health, substance use disorder, and patient services.

These investments have positioned 1,045 health centers (77 percent) to achieve Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition. The PCMH model of care enables health centers to sustain strong patient outcomes at lower costs despite treating a sicker and poorer population than other health care settings.

This is most evident in patient outcomes:

- 67 percent of health center patients with diabetes controlled their blood sugar levels ( $HbA1c \leq 9$  percent), exceeding the national average of 60 percent.<sup>1</sup>
- 63 percent of health center patients with hypertension controlled their blood pressure, exceeding the national average of 57 percent.<sup>2</sup>



In addition to better patient outcomes, the health center model of care is associated with reductions in the use of more costly care options, such as emergency departments and hospitals.<sup>3</sup> Health center patients also had 24 percent lower spending as compared to non-health center patients across all services.<sup>4</sup>

## Addressing Emergent Public Health Needs

HRSA-funded health centers are well-positioned to meet the nation's most pressing health care needs, as well as emerging health priorities. Health centers are the first line of care in combatting the nation's opioid crisis. In 2018, health centers screened and identified nearly 1.1 million people for substance use disorder and ultimately provided medication-assisted treatment to nearly 95,000 patients nationwide an increase of 143% since 2017. Overall, 93 percent of health centers provided mental health counseling and treatment and 67 percent of health centers provided substance use disorder services.

HRSA-funded health centers are a key component in the *Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative* by serving as a key point of entry for detection and diagnosis of people living with HIV. In 2018, health centers provided over 2.4 million HIV tests to more than 2 million patients and treated 1 in 6 patients diagnosed with HIV nationally.

## Resources

- For more information on the HRSA Health Center Program, visit: [bphc.hrsa.gov](http://bphc.hrsa.gov)
- To locate a HRSA-funded health center, visit: [findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov](http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov)

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<sup>1</sup> National Committee for Quality Assurance, The State of Health Care Quality. Diabetes Care (2017)

<sup>2</sup> National Committee for Quality Assurance, The State of Health Care Quality. Controlling for High Blood Pressure (2017)

<sup>3</sup> Laiteerapong, Neda et al. "Health Care Utilization and Receipt of Preventive Care for Patients Seen at Federally Funded Health Centers Compared to Other Sites of Primary Care." *Health Services Research* 49.5 (2014): 1498-1518.

<sup>4</sup> Nocon, Robert S. et al. "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 (Nov 2016): 1981-1989.

