

2024 Alaska Community Health Centers Annual Report

Serving One in Six Alaskans

We're pleased to share this Annual Report with you, highlighting the critical role Community Health Centers (also known as CHCs, Federally Qualified Health Centers, or FQHCs) play in Alaska's healthcare system; to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care regardless of an individual's ability to pay. Alaska's Health Centers serve 1 in 6 Alaskans to provide critical safety net care and respond to the unique needs of the communities they serve. CHCs are known and trusted by their patients and in their communities. Their impact and sustainability depend on strong state and federal partnerships.

Alaska Primary Care Association and Health Centers collaborate to build Alaska's healthcare workforce, expand access to integrated behavioral healthcare services, and focus on continuous quality and patient satisfaction improvement. We're Advancing Alaska's Wellness. We invite you to learn more about a Health Center near you.

Leadership

- **Nancy Merriman**, Chief Executive Officer of Alaska Primary Care Association
- **Carol Austerman**, APCA Board Chair and Executive Director of Kodiak Community Health Center

At a Glance

Information collected by HRSA Uniform Data System (UDS), for calendar year 2022. Includes two FQHC Look-Alikes that do not receive HRSA-based grants. Employee data is calculated by full-time equivalent employees.

- **Total Patients:** 112,450
- **Total Employees:** 2,517
- **Community Health Centers:** 29
- **Tribally Operated CHCs:** 15
- **Non-Tribally Operated CHCs:** 14
- **Care Delivery Sites:** 199
- **Economic Impact in Alaska Communities:** \$1.7 Billion

Community Health Centers' Financial Savings to Alaska's Healthcare System

Note: 2021 UDS data interpreted by Capital Link - Community Impact Assessment Survey

- **Lower costs for Health Center Medicaid Patients:** 24%
- **Savings to Medicaid:** \$99 Million
- **Savings to the overall health system:** \$194 Million

Advancing Access: Alaska Community Health Center Statistics & Quality Measures

Patient Visit By Type

- **Medical:** 325,963
- **Dental:** 74,851
- **Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder Services:** 75,500
- **Enabling Services:** 75,014
- **Vision:** 21,482

Patient Insurance Coverage Source & Demographics

Patient Insurance Coverage Source

- **Private Insurance:** 37%
- **Medicaid:** 32%
- **Uninsured:** 16%
- **Medicare:** 15%

Patients by Age

- **25-44:** 27%
- **45-65:** 25%
- **18 and Under:** 24%
- **65 and Older:** 18%
- **19-24:** 6%

Patients by Ethnicity/Race

- **Caucasian/White:** 39%
- **American Indian/Alaska Native:** 38%
- **More than one race:** 4%
- **Asian:** 3%
- **African American:** 1%
- **Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian:** 1%

Key Health Measures

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CHCs are required to closely monitor the quality of care by tracking 19 key health measures. These measures are reported through UDS data and are compared to Healthy People 2030, which are national data-driven objectives to improve health and well-being over the next decade.

- **1st Trimester Prenatal Care:** 65% (Healthy People 2030 Objective: 81%)
- **Depression Screening:** 67% (Healthy People 2030 Objective: 14%)
- **Cervical & Breast Cancer Screening:** 49% (Healthy People 2030 Objective: 80%)
- **Colorectal Cancer Screening:** 45% (Healthy People 2030 Objective: 65%)

Funding Alaska Community Health Centers (CHCs)

Alaska's 29 Community Health Centers operate 199 clinics across Alaska that offer medical, behavioral, and dental care to people in their communities - even if they don't have insurance. Through federal legislation and regulation, the federal government set up a special system to pay these clinics when they treat a patient who has Medicaid coverage. This is called the Prospective Payment System (PPS). It is one payment for a collection of whole-person care and services within a visit, including translation services, transportation, and other support services.

Some Alaska CHCs have opted to be paid under what is known as an Alternative Payment Methodology (APM), offered by the State of Alaska. Participation in the APM is voluntary, and the APM should result in a bundled payment that is equal to or more than the PPS rate.

Overall Funding Sources

- **Non-Federal Revenue, Contracts & Grants:** 35%
- **Medicaid:** 28%
- **Federal Grants:** 20%
- **Private Insurance/Self-Pay:** 10%
- **Medicare:** 6%
- **State Grants:** 1%

Federal Section 330 Funding

This statutory funding is comprised of federal annual appropriations and multi-year funding authorizations. It is a grant that guarantees CHCs the resources to care for uninsured patients and those whose coverage does not pay for the full cost of care.

- Annual federal grants to support ongoing operations.
- Supplemental grants to expand capacity, improve care and respond to emerging priorities.

State Medicaid Payment to Federally Qualified Health Centers (PPS and APM)

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- Federal payment rules were established in 2000, which State Medicaid agencies must follow.
- Ties payment to the cost of delivering care.
- Follows a special cost-related payment formula established by Federal law.
- By providing cost-related payment for services rendered to Medicaid patients, this ensures Federal grant funds for CHCs that are intended to support care for uninsured and underinsured patients may fulfill that purpose.
- Rates must be adjusted as needed to reflect changes in the scope of services provided by the CHCs.
- Rates are updated to account for costs of new services like onsite substance use disorder treatment, behavioral health, and dental services.
- Rates are to be trended forward annually by an inflation index (Medicare Economic Index).

Building Alaska's Healthcare Workforce

Alaska Community Health Centers are a lead trainer, recruiter, and employer of healthcare workers in communities throughout Alaska. Over 2,500 Health Center staff - from clinical providers, patient support professionals, and administration and support staff - serve their patients and support their communities' economic and overall health. Recruiting, training, and retaining staff is the biggest challenge and opportunity for Health Centers.

Alaska Primary Care Association and Alaska Health Centers focus their efforts in four areas:

- **Pre-Apprenticeship Training in Healthcare (PATH) Academy** - APCA's flagship program prepares hundreds of entry-level candidates for a job in healthcare with training and certifications each year. Employer partners include Alaska Health Centers, school districts, hospitals, and other employers who agree to sponsor PATH Academies and employ program graduates.
- **Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAP)** - Apprenticeships provide opportunities for healthcare employers to offer paid, full-time, and on-the-job competency-based learning to fill high-need positions. Employees get academic training, mentoring, guaranteed pay increases, and can build their careers without leaving their communities. APCA and its employer partners currently offer eight RAPs in specialties from clinical assistance to clinical operations.
- **Community Health Workers (CHW)** - CHWs link patients with services across health and community settings to improve health outcomes. In 2024, APCA will launch a new program that will place 16 CHWs in clinical and community-based settings. We are also committed to identifying sustainable reimbursement and funding for this invaluable workforce going forward.
- **Behavioral Health Providers** - Since 2019, Alaska Health Centers have doubled their behavioral health staff members from community-based support workers to care coordinators and clinicians.

Alaska Community Health Centers Roster

- Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
- Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center
- Bethel Family Clinic
- Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
- Camai Community Health Center
- Copper River Native Association
- Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments
- Cross Road Health Ministries, Inc.
- Dahl Memorial Clinic
- Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc.
- Girdwood Health Clinic, Inc.
- Ilanka Community Health Center
- Iliuliuk Family and Health Services, Inc.
- Interior Community Health Center
- JAMHI Health and Wellness
- Kodiak Area Native Association
- Kodiak Community Health Center
- Mat-Su Health Services, Inc.
- Maniilaq Association
- Norton Sound Health Corporation
- Peninsula Community Health Services of Alaska, Inc.
- SVT Health and Wellness
- Seward Community Health Center
- Southcentral Foundation
- Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium
- Sunshine Community Health Center
- Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Yakutat Community Health Center
- Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation

About the Alaska Primary Care Association

The Alaska Primary Care Association (APCA) supports the development and operations of Alaska's Community Health Centers and the workforces on which they depend. Its mission is Advancing Alaska's Wellness, and it partners to promote, expand, and optimize access to primary care for Alaskans.

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