

# 2025 Alaska Community Health Centers Report

## Caring for Alaskans in Their Communities

### Improving Lives & Saving Money.

Alaska's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), (also known as Community Health Centers or CHCs), provide tremendous value and impact for our state. These community-based clinics help patients achieve wellness and productive lives. At the same time, Community Health Centers generate savings for the healthcare system, all while growing employment and stability in their communities.

Community Health Centers care for 1 in 6 Alaskans in over 200 clinic sites with high quality, comprehensive primary care. Serving everyone regardless of their insurance coverage, CHCs are an important part of the community safety net. For example, as the senior population grows in Alaska, CHCs are finding innovative ways to care for aging Alaskans in their home communities. And because access is key to health care, most Health Centers are in rural and frontier Alaska communities where they are leading in integrated behavioral healthcare, expanding mobile and community-based services, and growing Alaska's future healthcare workforce.

In 2025, we are focused on three priorities:

- **Payment** - ensuring that Community Health Centers are accurately and rightfully paid for the services that they provide to patients.
- **Workforce** - developing, recruiting, and retaining the clinical providers and other staff needed to provide the high-quality care Alaskans deserve.
- **Access** - assuring that anyone needing care can get it in their community.

For 30 years, the Alaska Primary Care Association, (APCA) and Alaska's 29 Community Health Centers have devoted themselves to ensuring all Alaskans can get good care where they live. We are committed to sustainable, high-quality, and comprehensive primary care.

### Leadership

- **Nancy Merriman**, Chief Executive Officer of Alaska Primary Care Association
- **Joshua Gilmore**, APCA Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer of Sunshine Community Health Center

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At a Glance

All data shared in this report is collected by the HRSA Uniform Data System (UDS) for Alaska Health Centers for calendar year 2023. Includes two FQHC Look-Alikes that do not receive HRSA-based grants. Employee data is calculated by full-time equivalent employees.

- **Total Patients:** 112,659
- **Total Employees:** 2,691
- **Community Health Centers:** 29
- **Tribally Operated CHCs:** 15
- **Non-Tribally Operated CHCs:** 14
- **Permanent Sites:** 197
- **School-Based Sites:** 8
- **Mobile Clinics:** 8
- **Other Clinic Types:** 5

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## Alaska Community Health Center Statistics & Quality Measures

### Percentage of Patients Using Services

Alaska Health Centers provide comprehensive services to their patients including medical, dental and vision. For many services, patients are able to receive care through virtual visits. Nine percent of patient visits are provided virtually. Displayed here are the percentages of all patients who use each of the major types of services at their CHC:

- **Medical:** 87%
- **Dental:** 29%
- **Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder Services:** 11%
- **Vision:** 11%

### Caring for Alaskans' Health

Alaskan patients visit their Health Center for a variety of reasons. Here are the top health concerns and most common dental services delivered in Alaska Health Centers by percentage of overall patients:

#### Medical

- **Hypertension:** 18%
- **Overweight or obesity:** 9%
- **Diabetes:** 8%

#### Mental Health

- **Anxiety (including post-traumatic stress):** 11%
- **Depression and other mood disorders:** 9%

## Dental

- **Oral Exams:** 15%
- **Oral Hygiene:** 10%
- **Restorative services:** 9%

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## Patient Demographics

The percentage of senior patients served in Alaska Health Centers has increased from 12% to 20% since 2018. Four percent of Health Center patients identify themselves as veterans.

## Patient Insurance Coverage Source

- **Medicaid:** 34%
- **Private Insurance:** 34%
- **Uninsured:** 16%
- **Medicare:** 16%

## Patients by Age

- **25-44:** 27%
- **18 and Under:** 24%
- **45-65:** 24%
- **65 and Older:** 20%
- **19-24:** 5%

## Patients by Ethnicity/Race

- **Caucasian/White:** 45%
- **American Indian/Alaska Native:** 40%
- **Asian/Pacific Islander:** 5%
- **Hispanic/Latino:** 5%
- **More than one race:** 3%
- **Black/African American:** 2%

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## Key Health Measures

Alaska Health Centers are required to closely monitor and report on the quality of care they provide. In 2023, they tracked 15 key health measures. Health Centers focus on identifying and supporting patients to ensure they receive the screenings and early care that they need.

- **New HIV infections received initial treatment within 30 days:** 100%
- **At-risk adult patients received screenings for tobacco use:** 79%
- **High-risk cardiovascular patients take or have been prescribed statin therapy:** 71%
- **Adult mothers received first trimester prenatal care:** 69%

- **Adult patients screened for depression:** 67%
  - **Adult patients received cervical and breast cancer screenings:** 48%
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## Health Centers Impact in Alaska

### Employment & Financial Impact of Health Centers and the Savings to Alaska's Healthcare System

- **Economic Impact:** \$724 million. Alaska Community Health Centers' direct and indirect impact on the Alaska economy through economic output and labor income in 2021.
- **Supporting Employment in Alaska Communities:** 4,254 jobs. CHCs are one of the largest employers in many rural communities providing direct healthcare jobs and supporting additional local employment. This includes 1,186 medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and vision providers and clinical staff; 1,505 patient support, administrative, finance, and facility staff ; and 1,497 supported jobs in local communities.
- **Lower Costs for Health Center Medicaid Patients:** 24%. Alaska Health Centers save Medicaid 24% per person in total cost of care when compared with other providers. Alaska CHCs provide care to 15% of all Alaska Medicaid beneficiaries while representing only 6% of total Medicaid expenditures.

### Operational Support for Alaska Health Centers

Health Centers earn income from the care they provide and receive grant support from private and public sources.

- **Non-Federal Revenue, Contracts & Grants:** 37%
- **Medicaid:** 28%
- **Federal Grants:** 17%
- **Private/Self-pay:** 11%
- **Medicare:** 6%
- **State Grants:** 1%

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## Alaska Primary Care Association's 30 Year Anniversary - 2025

Over 30 years, Alaska's Community Health Centers have grown from two organizations and two sites to 29 organizations and 218 sites serving over 112,000 patients in clinics in most Alaska communities. Along the way, Community Health Centers have greatly expanded the comprehensive care they provide, implemented new technology, embraced data-driven quality health, focused on health workforce development, and lowered the cost of care.

### 30 Year Anniversary A Timeline

- **1995:** APCA founding, 2 CHC Organizations, 10 Sites.

- **2000:** Alaska Frontier Health Initiative funded, paving way for Health Center expansion throughout Alaska.
- **2001:** Community Health Centers began expansion into provide dental services.
- **2002:** Many Community Health Centers expanded to include pharmacy services.
- **2005:** 24 CHC Organizations, 100 Sites.
- **2013:** Community Health Centers expand to provide coordinated care and launch Patient Centered Medical Homes.
- **2015:** Medicaid Expansion begins in Alaska and the percentage of patients with insurance coverage reaches over 80%. 27 CHC Organizations, 172 Sites.
- **2016:** Alaska Quality Improvement Network is formed by Health Centers to support data-driven quality improvement and operations.
- **2018:** Most Health Centers expand access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment services. APCA introduces Registered Apprenticeship and workforce development programs to support Health Centers in "growing their own workforce".
- **2020:** Some Community Health Centers expand to provide optometry.
- **2021:** Community Health Workers introduced in some Health Centers.
- **2023:** APCA expands workforce development and training programs to Alaska healthcare industry through the Good Jobs Challenge.
- **2025:** 29 CHCs & Lookalikes, 218 Sites, 8 School Sites, 8 Mobile Sites, 5 Other Sites.

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#### 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

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## 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 with Health Centers to promote, expand, and optimize access to primary care for Alaskans.

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