

# 2026 Alaska Community Health Centers Report

## Caring for Alaskans in Their Communities

### Community Health Starts Here.

Alaska's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)—also known as Health Centers or Community Health Centers (CHCs)—help patients achieve wellness and live productive lives. At the same time, Community Health Centers generate savings for the healthcare system, all while growing employment and stability in their communities.

Across Alaska, 29 Community Health Centers operate over 200 sites, providing primary care to 1 in 6 Alaskans from our state's largest cities to our most rural communities. Health Centers support all Alaskans, with a special focus on patients with limited access to health care, such as seniors and people without homes or insurance, so that all Alaskans can live their healthiest lives.

Health Center employees continually seek to provide the highest level of quality to their communities. CHC teams are dedicated to enhancing their own knowledge through apprenticeship training and professional development. And Health Centers continue to invest in cutting-edge technology for clinicians and patients to make it easier to manage health conditions, achieve good outcomes, improve reporting, share data, and deliver cost savings.

Health Centers stay closely connected to the people they serve. Local patients and residents help guide Health Centers by serving on governing boards. This helps make sure the care and services offered meet the needs of each community. Health Centers also collaborate with schools, food banks, and local groups to support the overall health of their communities.

Find your local Health Center using the map in the center of this page or visit [AlaskaPCA.org/map](https://AlaskaPCA.org/map).

### 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

Data collected by HRSA Uniform Data System (UDS) for the calendar year 2024 and from the HRSA Data Center.

## Alaska Primary Care Association

- **Total Patients:** 115,173
- **Total Employees:** 2,998
- **Community Health Centers:** 29
- **Tribally Operated CHCs:** 15
- **Total Care Sites:** 227
- **Mobile Clinics:** 8
- **School-Based Sites:** 3

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## Alaska Community Health Center Statistics & Quality Measures

### Health Center Services

Alaskans use Health Centers for services ranging from medical to behavioral health and from vision to dental. From 2023 to 2024, the percentage of Health Center patients using Behavioral Health services increased from 11% to 18%, making it the fastest-growing service line.

Here is a breakdown of the percentage of patients who used the major types of services at their CHC:

- **Medical:** 89%
- **Dental:** 28%
- **Behavioral Health:** 18%
- **Vision:** 10%

### Caring for Alaskans' Health

Alaskans visit their Health Centers for a variety of needs. Here are some of the most frequently cited health conditions and services during 2024 by percentage of patients:

#### Medical

- **Hypertension:** 27%
- **Diabetes:** 12%
- **Overweight:** 10%

#### Mental Health

- **Anxiety:** 12%
- **Depression:** 9%

#### Dental

- **Dental Exams:** 14%
  - **Restorative Services:** 9%
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## Patient Demographics

Health Centers serve populations that have limited access to care, such as seniors, people who are uninsured, and people without homes. The percentage of Health Center patients who are 65+ years old has increased from 14% to 19% since 2018. From 2023 to 2024, the percentage of young adult (age 19-24) patients increased by 2%. In 2024, around 4% of CHC patients were Veterans.

### Patient Insurance Coverage Source

- **Medicaid:** 35%
- **Private Insurance:** 33%
- **Uninsured:** 16%
- **Medicare:** 16%

### Patients by Age

- **25-44:** 27%
- **45-65:** 24%
- **18 and Under:** 23%
- **65 and Older:** 19%
- **19-24:** 7%

### Patients by Ethnicity/Race

- **Caucasian/White:** 44%
- **American Indian/Alaska Native:** 40%
- **Asian/Pacific Islander:** 7%
- **Hispanic/Latino:** 6%
- **Black/African American:** 3%
- **More than one race:** 3%

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### Key Health Measures

Health Centers focus on screening, prevention, and early intervention to provide the most cost-effective care that patients need. This year, Health Centers continued to focus on the importance of cancer screenings. Since 2018, the percentage of patients screened for colorectal cancer increased by 8%, and the percentage of patients screened for breast cancer increased by 13%.

Here are metrics showing what health measures are being tracked:

- **Screened for tobacco use:** 77%
- **Adult mothers received first trimester care:** 70%
- **High-risk cardiovascular patients take or have been prescribed statin therapy:** 69%

## Alaska Primary Care Association

- **Screened for depression:** 66%
  - **Screened for colorectal cancer:** 50%
  - **Screened for breast cancer:** 50%
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## Health Center Impact in Alaska

### Economic Impact of Health Centers and Savings

- **Total Economic Impact in Alaska:** \$925,120,118. Alaska Health Centers have a direct and indirect impact on Alaska's economy through creating jobs, spending, and labor income.
  - **Jobs Supported in Alaska:** 4,717. Alaska Health Centers are one of the largest employers in rural Alaska and smaller communities, providing direct employment and supporting jobs in the community. This includes 2,725 Health Center jobs and 1,992 supported jobs.
  - **Overall Savings to Alaska's Health Care System:** \$184.8 M. Medicaid saves 24% of the total cost of care when a patient chooses to use a Health Center. When examining individual metrics, like purchasing prescription medication for children, Health Centers save as much as 49% when compared to other providers.
  - **Patients Under 200% of the Federal Poverty Line:** 81%. Alaska Health Centers work to ensure that populations with limited access to care can still access affordable, quality care.
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## Transforming Alaska's Health Systems

During Congressional deliberations on HR1 and following the bill's passage, APCA worked quickly to ensure Alaska Community Health Centers were an integral part of the newly established Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP).

APCA worked closely with Health Centers to listen, identify key rural health needs, and address questions as CMS developed the program. APCA also supported broad stakeholder outreach and served as a convener for early community partner meetings with the Alaska Department of Health (DOH). APCA was later invited to serve as a member of the Alaska Rural Health Transformation Program Advisory Council to support the State of Alaska with its program development, application process, implementation planning, and communications.

Health Centers provided important information and feedback to the State of Alaska, responding to DOH's Request for Information and participating in listening sessions and convenings with Department of Health leadership. APCA and Health Centers look forward to continued collaboration and partnership with the State of Alaska to support the success of the program and its positive impact on patients, CHCs, and Alaska's healthcare system as a whole.

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## Alaska Community Health Centers Roster

## Alaska Primary Care Association

- 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.
- 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
- Turnagain Community Health
- 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 Federally Qualified Health Centers, also known as Community Health Centers (CHCs), and the workforce they depend on. APCA's mission is Advancing Alaska's Wellness, and its work supports healthcare across the state.

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