Improving Outcomes and Controlling Costs: Not Too Good to Be True

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What are Health Centers?

• Mission: Improve the health of medically underserved communities

• Program requirements:
  – Location in medically underserved area
  – Comprehensive, tailored health care services
  – Open to all regardless of ability to pay
  – Community governance
  – Not for profit

• Currently serving 18 million patients across the US
Health Center Patients vs. US Population, 2006

Percent of Low Income, Uninsured Served by Health Centers, 2006

National Average = 20%

Note: Under 200% of poverty.
Percent of State Medicaid Beneficiaries Served by Health Centers, 2006

National Average = 12%

Rates of Chronic Illness Among Patients of Health Centers vs Office-Based Physicians

- Mental Disorders: 4.5% (Office-Based) vs 6.7% (Health Center)
- Heart Disease: 2.5% (Office-Based) vs 1.4% (Health Center)
- Diabetes: 2.8% (Office-Based) vs 6.3% (Health Center)
- Asthma: 1.4% (Office-Based) vs 2.0% (Health Center)
- Hypertension: 5.4% (Office-Based) vs 7.6% (Health Center)

Medicaid and Uninsured Patients: Health Centers vs. Other Primary Care Providers

Statistically different from Not CHC at the .05 level, two-tailed test. Source: 2002-05 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, AHRQ. Source: Dor A, et al. “Uninsured and Medicaid Patients’ Access to Preventive Care: Comparison of Health Centers and Other Primary Care Providers” Research Brief #4 George Washington University Geiger Gibson Program Aug 2008 www.gwhealthpolicy.org
Usual Source of Care: Health Center Uninsured and Medicaid Patients vs. U.S. Privately Insured

Percent Reporting They Have a Usual Source of Care

- **Health Center Uninsured Patients**: 97.4%
- **Health Center Medicaid Patients**: 99.3%
- **U.S. Privately Insured**: 91.2%

Access to Care for the Uninsured: Health Centers vs. Nationally

- **Health Center Uninsured**
  - Delayed Care Due to Cost: 25%
  - Went Without Needed Care: 16%
  - Could Not Fill Rx: 12%

- **Other Uninsured**
  - Delayed Care Due to Cost: 55%
  - Went Without Needed Care: 30%
  - Could Not Fill Rx: 24%

Percent Difference in Use of Preventive Care Services for **Medicaid** Patients: Health Centers vs Other Primary Health Care Settings

Source: 2002-05 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, AHRQ.
Percent Difference in Use of Preventive Care Services for **Uninsured** Patients: Health Centers vs Other Primary Health Care Settings

Source: 2002-05 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, AHRQ.
Improving Health Outcomes

• **High quality of care**: Equal to or greater than the quality of care provided elsewhere*

• **High patient satisfaction**: 99% vs. 67% to 87% reported in other national surveys of physician visits.**

• **Effectively manage chronic conditions:**
  – 90% of Hispanic and African American health center patients with hypertension report that their blood pressure is under control, 3X that of comparable national groups***
  – Shown to improve outcomes and processes of care****

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Minimizing Health Disparities

- No racial/ethnic disparities in healthy life among patients*
  - Even when controlling for socio-demographic factors

- Reduce disparities at the state level
  - States where health centers serve higher rates of state low income population have narrower disparities along key health indicators**

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Rates of Low Birth Weight: Health Center vs US

Cost Effectiveness

• Efficient providers: lower inpatient, ER, and specialty care use
  – Save Medicaid up to 30% per beneficiary*
  – Medicaid patients 19% less likely to use ER and 11% less likely to use inpatient care for avoidable conditions compared to other Medicaid patients**
  – Generate savings through effective chronic care***
  – Save the health care system $10-$17 billion a year****

• Currently generate $12.6 billion in economic benefits and 143,000 jobs****

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Ideal Partners for Health Reform

• Expansion will:
  – further improve access to care, health outcomes, minimize disparities
  – Generate more health care more savings and economic benefits

• Models of medical or “health care homes”

• Contact health centers in your state:
  – www.nachc.com/nachc-pca-listing.cfm
56 Million People Are Medically Disenfranchised

Percent of State Population Without Access to a Primary Care Provider, 2005

National Average = 19.4%

For more information...

- State by state data
- Annotated bibliographies
- Reports
- Fact sheets

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