

Community Health Centers in the Philadelphia Area: Fact Sheet

What are Community Health Centers?

Community Health Centers (CHCs) are places where you and your family can go to see a doctor or nurse and get the health care you need. Anyone can get health care at a CHC. It doesn't matter if you are young or old, if you have health insurance or not, if you speak English or not, or if you are healthy or sick.

Where are Community Health Centers?

Community Health Centers are in places all over the country where people might not have another place to go for care. Some are in cities and others are in rural areas (the country). There are over 1200 CHCs in the United States. Here in the Philadelphia area, there are 36 health centers in the city and the suburbs. A list showing all their addresses is attached.

What services do health centers provide?

Health centers do primary care. This means anything that a doctor or nurse can do in an office, like check-ups, sick visits, shots, care for babies and pregnant women, and care for people with diseases like asthma and diabetes. Many health centers have dentists who can clean and check teeth and take care of cavities and other problems. A lot of CHCs also have counselors who can talk to people who have problems in their lives. Many health centers also do health education – they teach people in their neighborhood how to live healthy lives.

Are health centers free?

No, but health centers charge based on how much money people earn so health centers are usually much less expensive than other kinds of doctor's offices. No one is ever turned away from a community health center because they can't pay. Health centers take insurance, like Medical Assistance and CHIP, and help people apply for these programs.

Do health centers have good doctors and nurses?

Yes. The people who work at health centers care a lot about their patients and are very good at their work. The doctors and nurses are highly trained and qualified. Lots of studies have shown that the care at health centers is better than care in other kinds of doctor's offices.

Why are health centers important?

Without health centers, many people would have nowhere to turn when they needed to get care. This would mean that people would be sicker and some would even die. Health centers also give good jobs to people in their communities and help to keep neighborhoods safe and healthy places.

For more information about health centers, go to: www.nachc.com or www.healthfederation.org or contact:

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