



# PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

2007

## FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS (FQHCs) ARE:

- Comprehensive primary health care delivery systems in federally designated underserved areas
- Located at more than 190 sites throughout the Commonwealth; serving both urban and rural areas
- Governed by consumer-based Boards—at least 51% of the Directors must be patients of the health centers

## FQHCs SAVE the COMMONWEALTH MONEY

- Average cost per medical user per year - \$312
- Reduce potentially preventable hospitalizations: In 2003 10% (109,169) of all Pennsylvania hospitalizations were potentially avoidable. (*PHC4 Research Briefs, Issue #3, November 2004*). PHC4 stated, **“Timely and effective primary care may reduce the likelihood of hospitalization for certain conditions including pneumonia, diabetes, asthma, and hypertension.”**
- Reduce avoidable emergency room visits: 2006 estimates suggest that in the Commonwealth wasted expenditures on avoidable emergency room visits amounted to \$790,754,728. (*National Association of Community Health Centers, Access to Community Health Databook, Pennsylvania*)
- “Comparative Effectiveness of Health Centers as Regular Sources of Care” January – March 2006 *Journal of Ambulatory Care Management*: This report analyzed claims data of 1.6 million Medicaid beneficiaries in 4 states including Pennsylvania. Medicaid beneficiaries relying on health centers for usual care were 19% less likely to use the ER for ambulatory care-sensitive (ACS) conditions and 11% less likely to be hospitalized for an ACS condition.
- NACHC’s *Access Denied: A Look at America’s Medically Disenfranchised* (2007): “While health insurance is an important facilitator to care, having a medical home is more likely to improve appropriate health care use and health outcomes than having insurance alone.”

## FQHCs SERVED (Calendar Year 2006 – grant funded FQHC data only)

- 499,829 users with 1,761,521 encounters
- 92% with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level
- 75% with Medicaid, Medicare or uninsured
- 1 in 10 of the Commonwealth’s Medicaid recipients
- 16% (1 in 6) of the Commonwealth’s uninsured are patients of FQHCs

## FQHCs PROVIDE

- Comprehensive and high quality primary and preventive care services for all ages regardless of the ability to pay; including dental and behavioral health care;
- Health education, case management, translation; after hours coverage and inpatient care.
- The majority of FQHCs in PA utilize the nationally recognized chronic care model.

## FQHCs ARE ECONOMIC GENERATORS (Calendar Year 2006)

- Provided 2,600 full time jobs
- Infused local economies with \$208 million

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