

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **Patients Served and Jobs Provided by Community Health Centers Ten-Year Trend Analysis Shows Hundreds of Thousands of Lives Touched**

DENVER— Over the past ten years, the number of patients cared for by Community Health Centers (CHCs) in Colorado has grown 55 percent. In 2008 CHCs provided primary health care services to 419,514 patients.

In 2008, 90 percent of CHC patients had lived at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For the past ten years, approximately two out of three CHC patients lived at or below 100 percent of the FPL.

In 2008, CHCs employed more than 3,000 employees, nearly double the more-than-1,500 employees in 1999.

An analysis of the past ten years of care provided to people in Colorado by CHCs shows that hundreds of thousands of lives have been touched.

“We know that Community Health Centers will continue to play an important role meeting the needs of Colorado communities during the economic downturn and recovery, and growing and changing to continue to provide high quality, cost effective health care whatever direction health care reform may take,” explained Polly Anderson, policy director of Colorado Community Health Network. “It was important for us to understand where we have been in order to plan for the future.”

“We have developed the Access for All Colorado Plan, our strategy for expanding CHCs and their services over the next 20 years to enable CHCs to serve as the health care home to one million Coloradans, approximately half of them uninsured.

“Community Health Centers touch hundreds of thousands of lives in Colorado. Research has shown a direct relationship between primary care supply and health outcomes and between primary health care and cost containment. Primary health care is the backbone of good health, and Community Health Centers are a significant component of primary care.”

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To view the ten-year trend analysis, please go to [http://www.cchn.org/pdf/about\\_cchn/news\\_room/CO\\_CHC\\_Ten\\_Years\\_Trends\\_99\\_to\\_08.pdf](http://www.cchn.org/pdf/about_cchn/news_room/CO_CHC_Ten_Years_Trends_99_to_08.pdf). For more information about CCHN's Access for All Colorado Plan, please go [www.cchn.org](http://www.cchn.org).

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The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the collective voice for Colorado's 15 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to more than 500,000 of their community members - one in 10 people in Colorado - from 55 of the state's 64 counties. Without CHCs, hundreds of thousands of Colorado's low-income families and individuals would have no regular source of health care. CCHN's mission is to increase access to high quality health care for people in need in Colorado. For more information about CCHN, please visit [www.cchn.org](http://www.cchn.org).