

NEWS STATEMENT
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Community Health Centers Continue Work on Quality Improvement

Statement attributable to
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DENVER— The *USA Today* and *Kaiser Health News* articles “Community health centers under pressure to improve care” and “Clinics have odds stacked against them” rightly report on the need for health care providers to constantly collect and analyze data but wrongly leave the impression that Community Health Centers (CHCs) are failing low-income Americans in the quality of care provided. The articles do reveal that many CHCs perform significantly better than average on some measures, and that CHCs have been publicly reporting this data for several years. In fact, CHCs have been pioneers in the use of clinical data to improve and report health outcomes.

Colorado CHCs are proud of the work we do to provide affordable quality primary health care to Coloradans. Just last year a study that specifically focused on Colorado’s Medicaid clients found that Medicaid clients who use Colorado CHCs are one-third less likely than Medicaid clients of private fee-for-service providers to have an emergency room visit, an inpatient hospitalization, or a preventable hospital admission.¹

As used in CHCs, clinical data leads to healthier patients and communities, as well as lower overall health care costs. Community Health Centers foster a quality improvement culture in which we examine our clinical outcomes regularly, share the information with staff, and make adjustments to continuously improve. The information we collect is an essential part of our everyday work, and it is part of a proud tradition of bringing comprehensive primary health care to people and communities who are more at risk for poor health than the general public. Community Health Centers are fairly unique because we not only monitor and work to improve quality, we report this data publicly.

Patients should expect high quality health care, wherever they seek it. CHCs are proud to work to improve quality for Colorado’s most vulnerable populations. CHCs are committed to providing access to high quality, affordable, primary health care for people in need in Colorado.

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To interview Ms. Anderson, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 259, cell (303)913-9078, or maureen@cchn.org.

See statement by Tom Van Coverden, President and CEO of the National Association of Community Health Centers at <http://www.nachc.org/pressrelease-detail.cfm?PressReleaseID=752>.

Additional research on Community Health Centers and primary health care in America is summarized in [Health Wanted: The State of Unmet Need for Primary Health Care in America](#).

¹ “Medicaid Patients Seen At Federally Qualified Health Centers Use Hospital Services Less Than Those Seen By Private Providers,” Rothkopf, Jennifer, et. al., [Health Affairs](#) 30:7 July 2011.

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the unified 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 57 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.

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