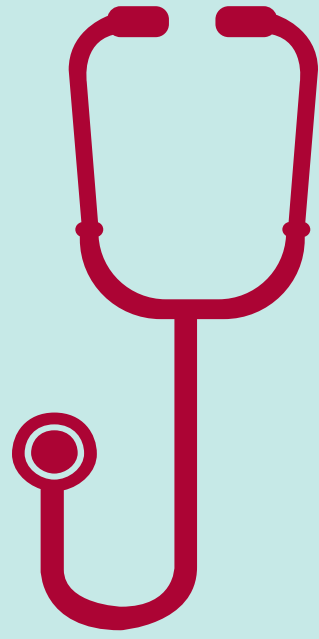


# Colorado's Community Health Centers

Providing over 50 years of accessible & affordable primary care to Coloradans

## CHCs are leaders and innovators in: Quality



Colorado CHCs seek to lead the nation in quality health care, focusing on established quality metrics, including:

- Prenatal Care
- Cervical Cancer Screening
- Tobacco Use Screening and Cessation
- Childhood Immunizations
- High Blood Pressure
- HIV Linkage to Care

## Access



CHCs provide a health care home for over 852,000 Coloradans, or one in seven people in the state.<sup>1</sup> Located in high need urban and rural areas with limited access to affordable care, CHC patients receive comprehensive, patient-centered primary care including medical, behavioral, dental, and pharmacy services.

## Cost Savings



Research shows the Community Health Center model results in lower per-patient spending compared to non-CHC patients. A 13-state study including Colorado found that CHC Medicaid patients had 24% lower total costs of care when compared to similar patients cared for in other settings.<sup>4</sup>

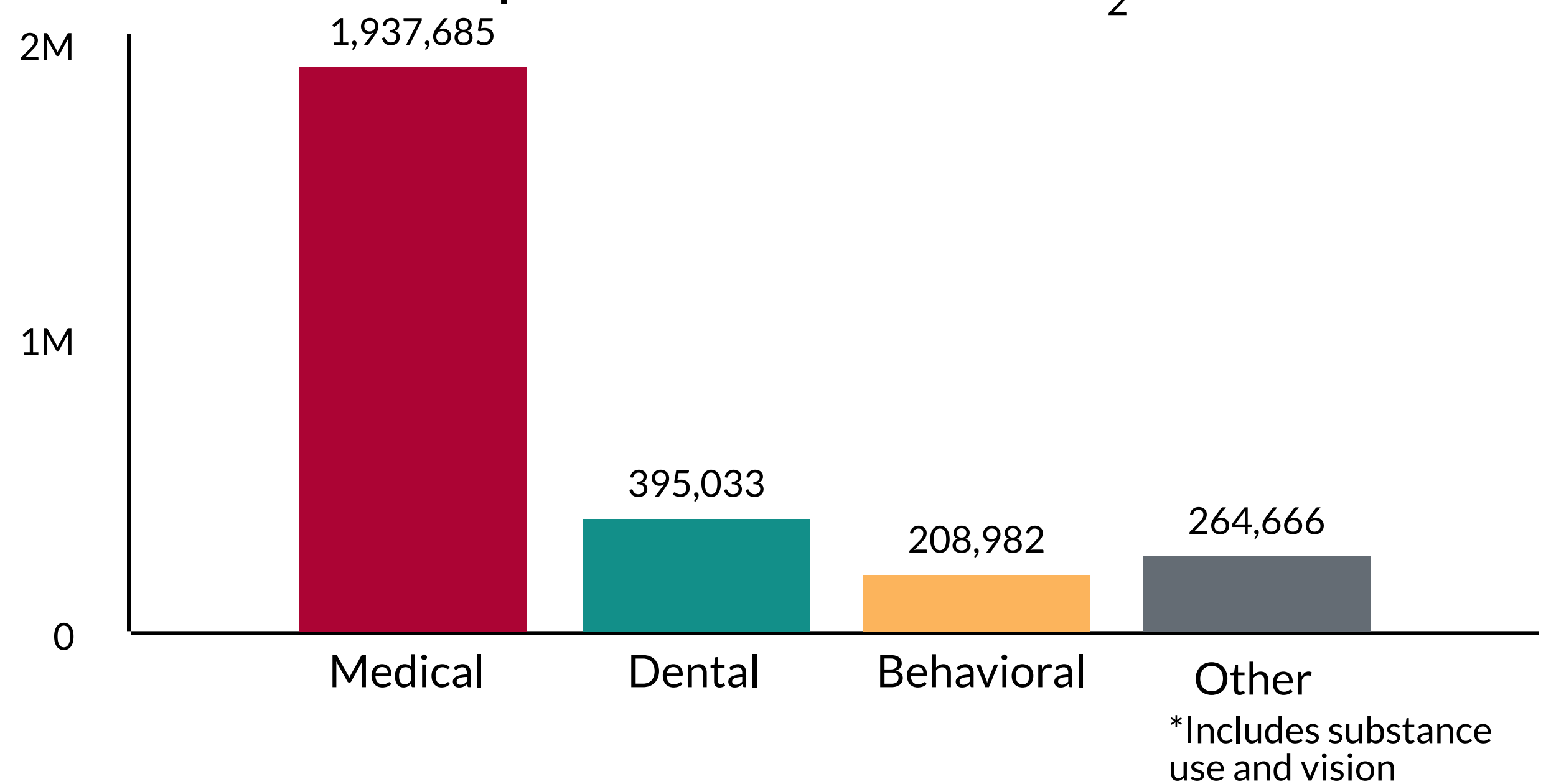
## Workforce



CHCs are vital to the economic health of Colorado communities as employers and businesses. CHCs train the next generation of health care providers and team members to serve in rural and underserved areas of the state.

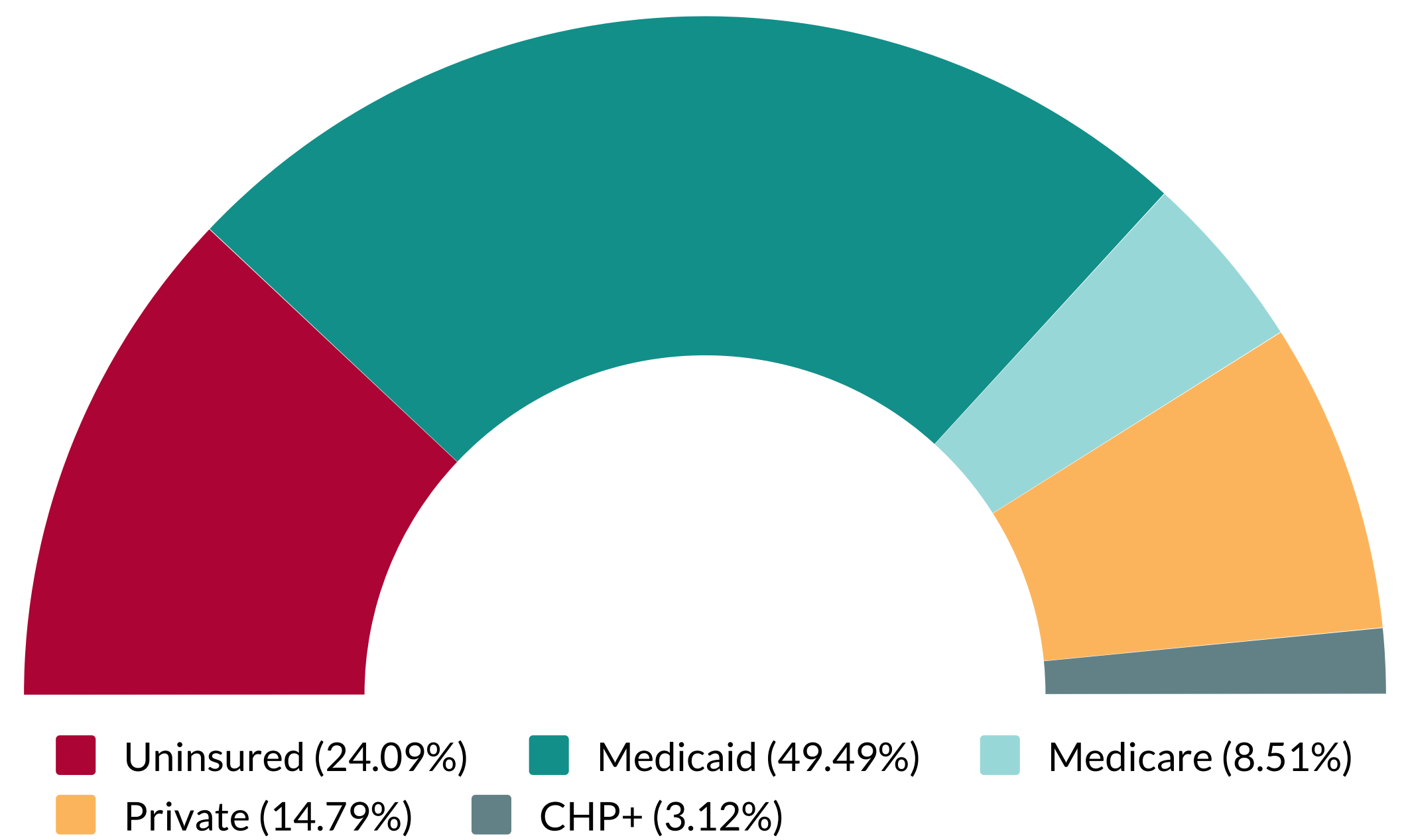
Community Health Centers (CHCs) provide affordable and high-quality care to working families and communities that would otherwise not have adequate access to health care services. Colorado's 20 CHCs are an important part of the state's health care system, promoting wellness, and preventing and treating illness, including helping patients and communities respond to COVID-19.

Colorado CHCs provided **2.8 million** patient visits in 2019.<sup>2</sup>



CHCs provide care for thousands of people who would otherwise slip through the cracks of our health care system, including **43% of Colorado's uninsured** and **27% of the state's Medicaid population.**<sup>3</sup>

## CHC Patient Insurance Status<sup>2</sup>



## Partners in Medicaid



Colorado CHCs are critical to Medicaid's statewide reach, providing comprehensive care in underserved urban, rural and frontier communities. CHCs work closely with Colorado Medicaid and have played a large role in the Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC), Colorado's regionally based Medicaid delivery system focused on access to primary and behavioral health care.



Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the unified voice for Colorado's federally qualified Community Health Centers and their patients. For more information about CCHN, please visit [cchn.org](http://cchn.org).

1. Fact source: CHC data on patients served over an 18-to-24 month period of time, reported to CCHN in April 2020.  
 2. 2019 Uniform Data System Quality Metrics Reporting  
 3. Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's FY2019-2020 Medical Premiums Expenditure and Caseload Report. <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/premiums-expenditures-and-caseload-reports>.  
 4. 5 Robert S. Nocon et al., "Health Care Use and Spending for Medicaid Enrollees in Federally Qualified Health Centers Versus Other Primary Care Settings," American Journal of Public Health, published online September 15, 2016, ahead of print Nov. 2016. 6 L. Elizabeth Goldman, MD, MC



# CHCs Essential During a Pandemic

Colorado's CHCs responded immediately to the COVID-19 pandemic with energy and commitment, adjusting their services to meet patient and community needs. Throughout this public health crisis, CHCs have been on the frontlines of COVID-19 while continuing to provide quality and accessible primary care to Coloradans.

## Testing & Surveillance

CHCs are providing life-saving surveillance and mitigating the profound inequalities of the nation's COVID-19 response.

Between April and December 2020:<sup>1</sup>

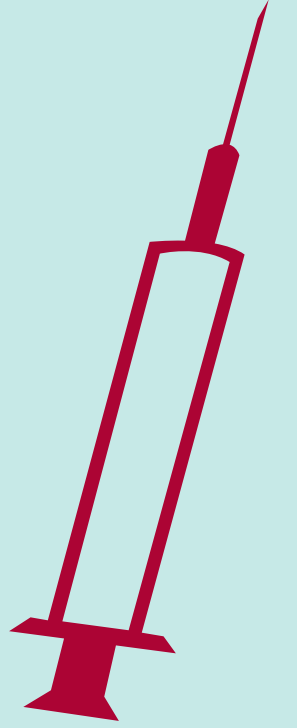
**100%** of Colorado CHCs offered COVID-19 testing to **166,081** Coloradans.

**90%** of Colorado CHCs offered walk-up or drive-through testing.



## COVID-19 Vaccine

CHCs are playing a critical role in the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to Colorado's low-income and underserved communities. CHCs have worked closely with state and federal partners to plan for the administration of the vaccine in the state of Colorado.



Colorado CHCs were called on to deliver approximately **20%** of the state's vaccine supply to the 70+ population.

In January 2021, Colorado CHCs reported **26,143 vaccine series initiated** and **5,461 vaccine series completed** amongst patients and community members.<sup>1</sup>

## Telemedicine

CHCs were able to ramp up telemedicine services at the onset of the pandemic with help from emergency rules enacted by the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and the passing of SB20-212, which ensures that CHCs are reimbursed for virtual visits on par with in-person visits. This has helped CHCs meet patient needs and weather the financial impacts of the pandemic.



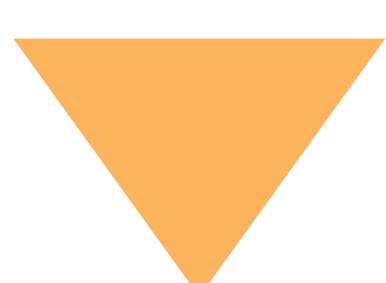
From April to December 2020, an average of **33%** of CHC visits were conducted via telemedicine.<sup>1</sup>

## CHC Innovations

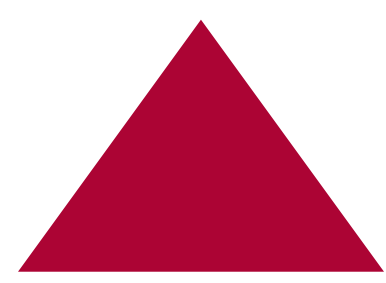
Colorado CHCs have implemented many unique innovations in response to the pandemic, including:

- Offering **mobile clinics** for people experiencing homelessness
- Enabling "**Hospital at Home**" virtual programs
- Reconfiguring clinic space to care for people with and without COVID-19 symptoms
- Integrating **virtual urgent care** teams for CHC patients
- Providing **emergency dental** care to keep otherwise healthy people out of the emergency room
- Offering drive-through and **delivery pharmacy services**

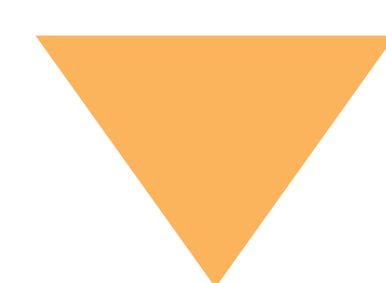
Colorado CHCs continue to face challenges brought on by COVID-19.



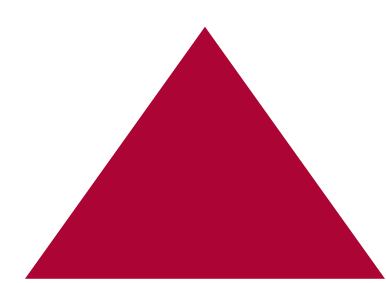
Declining revenues



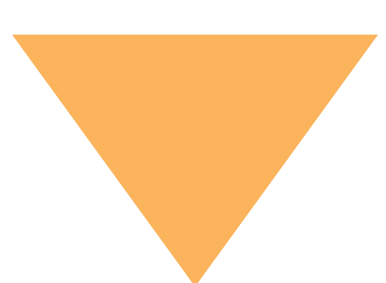
Rising burnout and exhaustion



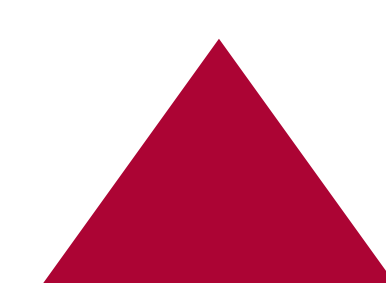
Shortages of PPE, testing supplies, and vaccines



Increased staff shortages



Decreased patient visits



Rising uninsured patients



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1. Health Center COVID-19 Survey. (2020, April 08). Retrieved from <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-health-center-data>  
\*\*Note: Data does not represent all Colorado CHCs as not all CHCs responded to survey every week