Health Center Data Insights

Geiger Gibson/RCHN Community Health Foundation Research Collaborative June 2018

Changes in Health Center Patients Served, 2010-2016

Peter Shin, PhD, MPH
Jessica Sharac, MSc, MPH
Rachel Gunsalus, MPH
Sara Rosenbaum, JD

Between 2010 and 2016, community health centers experienced major patient growth. The accompanying table and figures present this growth data for the nation as well as individual states. The source of these data is the Uniform Data System, a nationwide annual reporting system in which all community health centers participate. These data show that over a six-year time span, health centers nationwide experienced a one-third (33%) patient growth. Within this overall figure, state-by-state growth varied significantly in terms of both overall percentage growth rates and the number of patients served.

As the following table and figures show, whether measured by growth in patient numbers or as a percentage increase in patients served, the health center patient surge was evident across the country. Both the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Medicaid expansion and non-expansion states were among those whose health centers experienced highest patient growth, whether measured in terms of the number of patients served or percentage of patient growth. This suggests that although adoption of the ACA Medicaid expansion has been shown to be a significant factor associated with health center growth,[1] non-Medicaid expansion states such as Texas and Florida also have experienced a major surge. The fact that this surge reached all states underscores the role played by the Affordable Care Act's health center fund, which was most recently extended by Congress in the Balanced Budget Act of 2018.

Dr. Feygele Jacobs, president and CEO of the RCHN Community Health Foundation, whose ongoing gift supports the Geiger Gibson/RCHN Community Health Foundation Research Collaborative, said, "These impressive growth figures not only show the importance of health centers to the medically underserved communities they serve but also underscore the essential role played by the Affordable Care Act, both for its Medicaid expansion and for its health center fund."

[1] Han, X., Luo, Q., and Ku, L. (2017) Medicaid Expansion and Grant Funding Increases Helped Improve Community Health Center Capacity. Health Affairs 36(1). Retrieved at https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2016.0929

Milken Institute School of Public Health
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
rchn community health foundation

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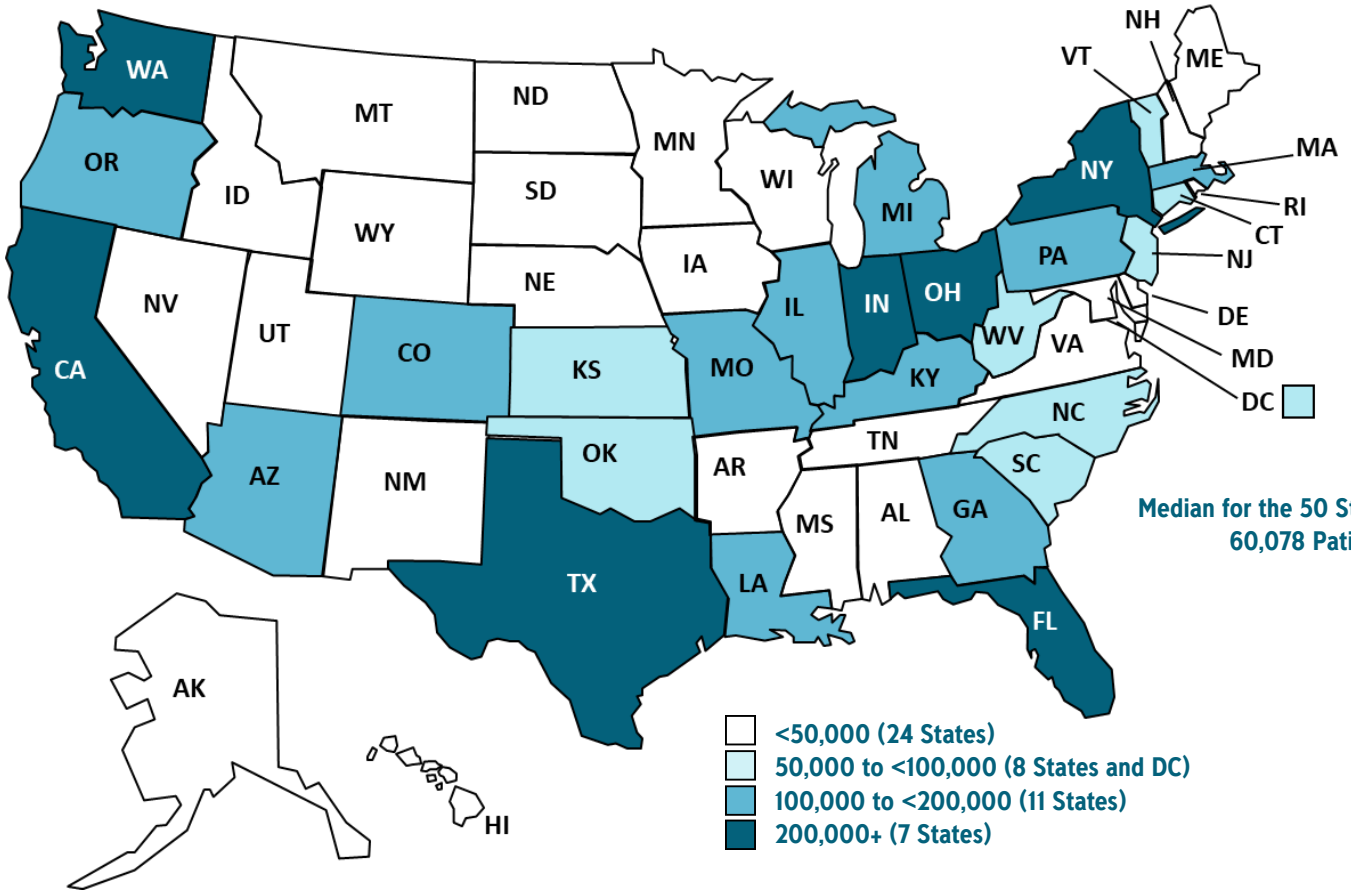
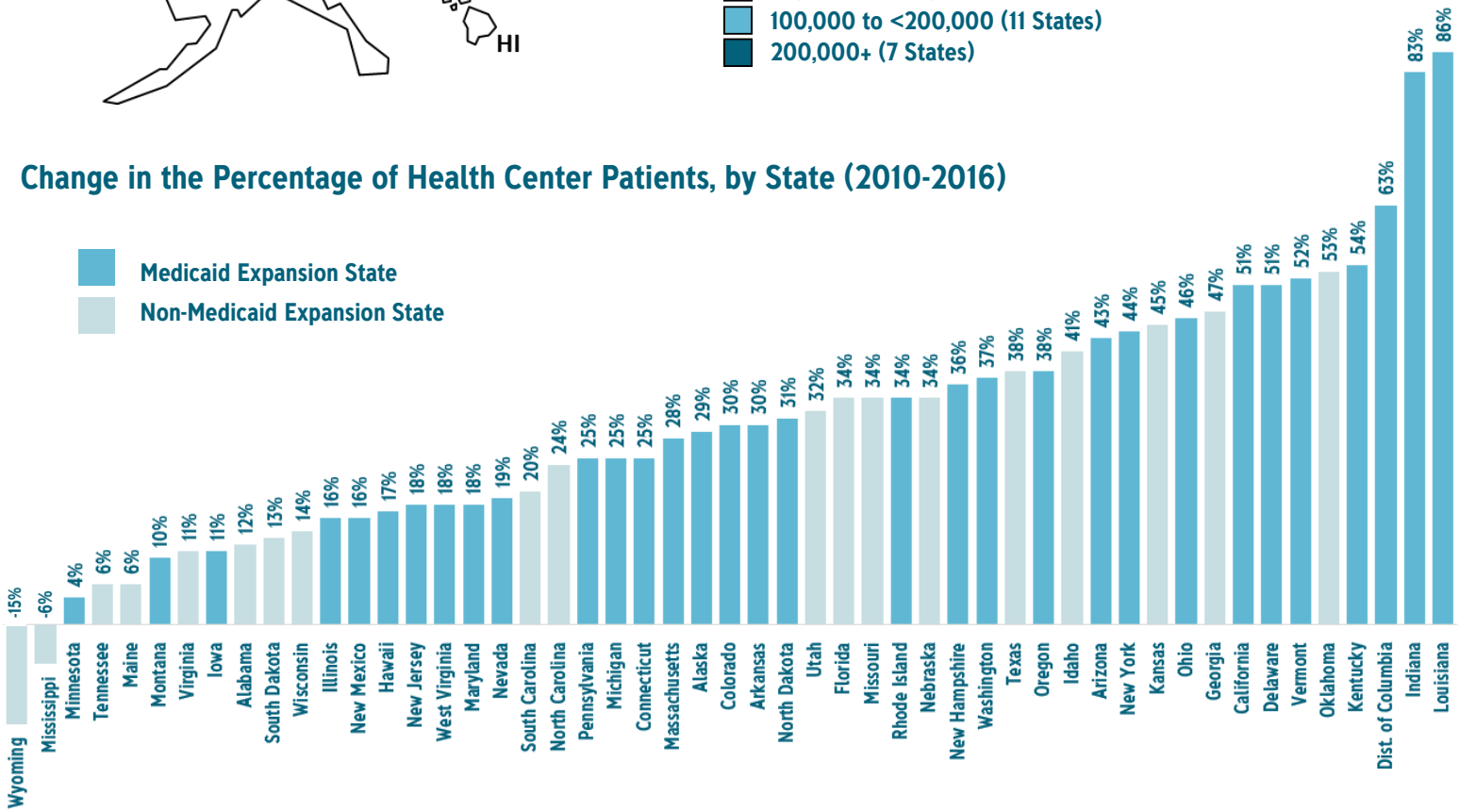
Change in the Number of Health Center Patients, by State (2010-2016)



Change in the Percentage of Health Center Patients, by State (2010-2016)



Source: GW analysis of 2010 and 2016 Uniform Data System (UDS) data, Health Resources and Services Administration
Note: Medicaid Expansion status as of the end of 2016.

Change in the Number of Community Health Center Patients from 2010-2016, by State

(Non-Expansion states are indicated with dark shading)

State	2010 Total Patients	2016 Total Patients	Change in the Number of Patients, 2010-2016	Percentage Change in the Number of Patients, 2010-2016
Alabama	310,673	347,694	37,021	12%
Alaska	87,802	113,027	25,225	29%
Arizona	384,287	548,487	164,200	43%
Arkansas	150,669	195,397	44,728	30%
California	2,937,212	4,438,827	1,501,615	51%
Colorado	458,075	594,959	136,884	30%
Connecticut	298,268	373,182	74,914	25%
Delaware	33,123	49,900	16,777	51%
Dist. of Columbia	109,612	178,324	68,712	63%
Florida	1,040,464	1,397,966	357,502	34%
Georgia	312,039	457,644	145,605	47%
Hawaii	130,309	152,155	21,846	17%
Idaho	121,329	171,126	49,797	41%
Illinois	1,092,164	1,265,889	173,725	16%
Indiana	258,867	473,237	214,370	83%
Iowa	170,925	188,969	18,044	11%
Kansas	133,765	193,843	60,078	45%
Kentucky	275,179	423,515	148,336	54%
Louisiana	206,960	384,893	177,933	86%
Maine	175,180	186,039	10,859	6%
Maryland	266,172	313,411	47,239	18%
Massachusetts	588,064	751,918	163,854	28%
Michigan	537,847	672,753	134,906	25%
Minnesota	168,750	174,811	6,061	4%
Mississippi	314,612	295,052	-19,560	-6%
Missouri	392,785	527,054	134,269	34%
Montana	96,682	106,342	9,660	10%
Nebraska	63,033	84,556	21,523	34%
Nevada	75,063	88,962	13,899	19%
New Hampshire	65,810	89,280	23,470	36%
New Jersey	432,328	511,947	79,619	18%
New Mexico	275,748	320,163	44,415	16%
New York	1,417,414	2,038,538	621,124	44%
North Carolina	409,709	508,599	98,890	24%
North Dakota	30,797	40,331	9,534	31%
Ohio	455,669	667,007	211,338	46%
Oklahoma	131,649	200,937	69,288	53%
Oregon	277,605	383,691	106,086	38%
Pennsylvania	617,646	774,921	157,275	25%
Rhode Island	122,337	164,057	41,720	34%
South Carolina	312,135	374,257	62,122	20%
South Dakota	61,049	69,137	8,088	13%
Tennessee	375,694	396,877	21,183	6%
Texas	948,685	1,309,020	360,335	38%
Utah	114,877	151,250	36,373	32%
Vermont	112,761	171,828	59,067	52%
Virginia	273,431	304,756	31,325	11%
Washington	753,269	1,035,629	282,360	37%
West Virginia	363,677	430,084	66,407	18%
Wisconsin	265,924	303,266	37,342	14%
Wyoming	20,725	17,582	-3,143	-15%
Total for Medicaid expansion states	13,251,091	18,116,434	4,865,343	37%
Total for Medicaid non-expansion states	5,777,758	7,296,655	1,518,897	26%
Total US (including territories)	**19,469,467**	**25,860,296**	**6,390,829**	**33%**

Source: GW analysis of 2010 and 2016 Uniform Data System (UDS) data, Health Resources and Services Administration
Note: Medicaid Expansion status as of the end of 2016.