



Community
HealthCorps

www.communityhealthcorps.org



Community HealthCorps Partners with Primary Care Associations

Approximately **1.2 million people** who lacked access and inadequately used available health services and programs benefited from the service activity of Community HealthCorps members (AmeriCorps national service volunteers) during program 2009-2010. Individuals were assisted with **123,096 enrollment applications** for health education workshops and classes, health insurance plans, and other health services and programs. Lastly, **159,932 used preventive and primary health care services and programs** two or more times within the program year.

To date, during program year 2010-2011, Community HealthCorps has partnered with several Primary Care Associations (PCAs) across the country including the **Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers, Community Health Center Association of Connecticut, Louisiana Primary Care Association, District of Columbia Primary Care Association, and Ohio Association of Community Health Centers**. In addition to the PCAs NACHC provides a direct grant to, Community HealthCorps is also affiliated with other PCA organizations that manage their own AmeriCorps grant, including the **Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS), Michigan Primary Care Association, Association for Utah Community Health, and Wisconsin Primary Care Association**. A few examples of effective practices of the PCAs AmeriCorps members serve through that benefit health center patients:



- Navigating the health care system;
- Establishing a "medical home" and improving utilization of health services;
- Providing health education and supportive counseling to individuals and groups;
- Assistance with adopting "self-care" practices that could lead to improved health;
- Enrollment in public health insurance and health programs such as support groups;
- Follow-up support for treatment plan management (working with patients to improve adherence to provider instructions, medications, etc.); and
- Assessing and assisting with other patient needs such as transportation, legal, housing, and eligibility assistance.

Great Stories Most Community HealthCorps members from the **Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers** say they joined the program because they wanted to further their experience in working with underserved communities and individuals and many members consider a health-focused career post-service. For example, after serving one term in another AmeriCorps project, member Katherine Ni from the **Community Health Center Association of Connecticut** became interested



in pursuing a second term full-time through Community HealthCorps saying, "I would love to work with a health clinic that is helping people educate themselves toward maintaining their health. I believe that for most people, health education could prevent their major problems." Katherine isn't the only AmeriCorps member at her health center looking to pursue a health-focused career – several are interested in public health, one wants to be a dentist, one is currently a licensed practical nurse (LPN), and a few others plan to become physicians. Until those and other dreams are realized, Community HealthCorps members across the country are committed 'in the here

and now' to working with people who need care the most and are eager to educate others on living healthier lives.



©National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc., and Community HealthCorps® (August 2, 2011). Proprietary information of NACHC intended for use by NACHC & authorized recipients. Do not publish, copy or distribute this information in part or whole without prior written consent from NACHC.



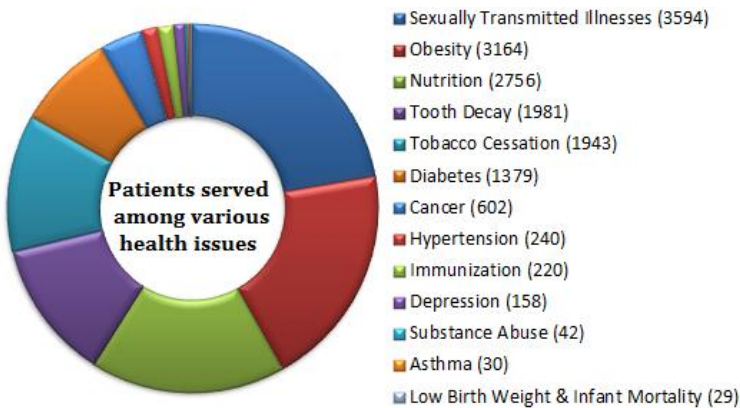
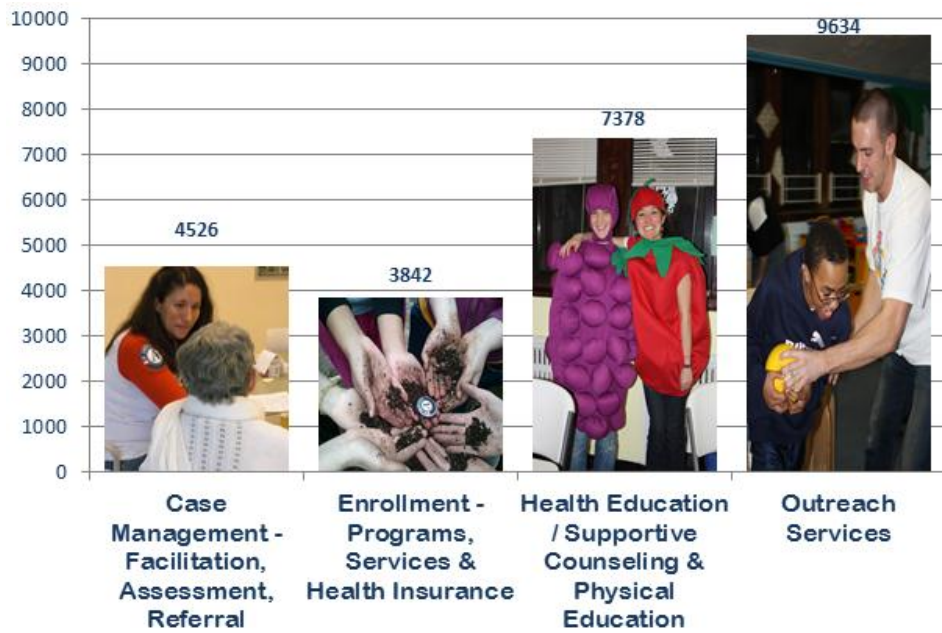
Community HealthCorps members also build the capacity of community health centers and health center networks to recruit and engage community volunteers. They mobilize and support volunteers in one-time and ongoing activities that address community and health center needs. Last year, Community HealthCorps members leveraged 12,754 community volunteers who served over 25,500 hours.

Major Service Activities Among Community HealthCorps Members Placed in Primary Care Associations

(Data Representing Clients Served Between August 15, 2010 and July 27, 2011 Only)

In addition to recruiting community volunteers, Community HealthCorps members participated in over 3,000 service projects nationwide that addressed critical needs. These projects were very diverse, including activity such as sorting donations at area food pantries, preparing and serving meals, distributing blankets and coats to the homeless, delivering meals to homes, collecting and distributing free school supplies, as well as partnering with several other service organizations like Habitat for Humanity in order to help restore areas within their communities. With no set system for patient assistance

programs, Kaela Martin, a Community HealthCorps member from the **Ohio Association of Community Health Centers**, has developed a system for medication programs which has made tracking patients easier, fewer lapses in medication refills and more patients enrolled in the program. Kaela “chose the Community HealthCorps program because it was the perfect opportunity to start at a health center.” The Care Alliance Health Center where Kaela is placed focuses primarily on the homeless in Cleveland which “was extremely important to me [Kaela] as well because I want to give back to society and know at the end of the day that my job is worthwhile.”



Background of Community HealthCorps

Founded in 1995 by the **National Association of Community Health Centers**, Community HealthCorps is the largest health-focused, national AmeriCorps program that promotes health care for America's underserved, while developing tomorrow's health care workforce.

The *mission* of the Community HealthCorps is to improve health care access and enhance workforce development for community health centers through national service programs.

The *vision* of Community HealthCorps is to become a national service pipeline for careers in community health centers that is improving access to necessary primary and preventative care services for the medically underserved.

For more information about the Community HealthCorps program, please visit www.communityhealthcorps.org.



©National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc., and Community HealthCorps® (August 2, 2011). Proprietary information of NACHC intended for use by NACHC & authorized recipients. Do not publish, copy or distribute this information in part or whole without prior written consent from NACHC.

