AA&NHPI-Serving Health Centers and Medicaid

In 2015, more than 1 million of the 24 million patients served by Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) across the United States and its territories were Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AA&NHPIs). The 153 AA&NHPI-serving health centers (11% of all FQHCs) are located across the country in 28 U.S. states, 4 U.S. territories and 3 other territories (Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau). These AA&NHPI-serving health centers served a total of 4.5 million patients, including 735,000 AA&NHPIs (70% of all AA&NHPI patients served by all FQHCs).

AA&NHPI-SERVING HEALTH CENTER PARTICIPATION IN MEDICAID

Health centers care for more than 1 in 6 Medicaid beneficiaries nationally and the percentage of health centers’ Medicaid patient population is more than double that of the general population.

- Percentage of AA&NHPI-serving health centers' Medicaid patient population is more than twice that of the general U.S. population.
- AA&NHPI-serving health centers' Medicaid patient population is almost 10% more than the overall FQHC population.

AA&NHPI-SERVING HEALTH CENTERS, ENABLING SERVICES, AND PAYMENT

In 2015, AA&NHPI-serving health centers on average served enabling services (ES) to almost twice as many patients as the national average, and provided more than twice as many enabling service visits as the national average.

- On average, AA&NHPI-serving health centers provided more than twice as many ES visits compared to the national average.

Previous studies demonstrated that investment in ES is associated with better health outcomes. In 2015, AA&NHPI-serving health centers on average also had better health outcomes in children's immunizations, cervical cancer screening, hypertension, and diabetes control than the national average.

Medicaid payments are health centers' largest source of revenue at 44%. However, these payments do not compensate for the total cost of care provided to patients, including those that receive enabling services. If AA&NHPI-serving health centers currently do not receive adequate payment for the enabling services they provide, cutting Medicaid payments will make these health centers have to cut essential services.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

1. Medicaid is essential to health centers, and is a crucial funding mechanism for AA&NHPI-serving health centers. With 58% of the AA&NHPI-serving health centers population using Medicaid, taking any Medicaid funding away could have severe consequences for health centers and their patients.
2. Enabling services, key services that eliminate barriers to care, are critical to improving health care outcomes and reducing health care disparities for medically underserved populations.
3. Restructuring Medicaid to eventually lower state Medicaid costs will severely hurt health center revenue, potentially causing severe cuts to needed enabling services.