



www.bistatepca.org

525 Clinton Street, Bow, NH 03304

61 Elm Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

Federally Qualified Health Center and Primary Care Association - 101

Presentation to the Green Mountain Care Board

Mary Kate Mohlman, PhD, MS
Director, Vermont Public Policy
Bi-State Primary Care Association
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What is a Primary Care Association?

- State or regional nonprofit organizations that provide training and technical assistance to safety-net providers.
- Support health centers with improving programmatic, clinical, and financial performance and operations.
- Facilitate collaboration and communication between health centers and the executive branch, legislative branch, and partners at both the federal and state levels
- Present in all 50 states

What is Bi-State PCA?

- Formed in 1986 to expand access to health care in Vermont and New Hampshire
- Represents 27 member organizations across both states that provide comprehensive primary care services to over 300,000 patients at 146 locations.
- Members include FQHCs, Free and Referral Clinics, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
- What we do:
 - Training and technical assistance for improving programmatic, clinical, and financial performance.
 - Workforce assistance and candidate referrals for providers including physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants through the Bi-State Recruitment Center
 - Work with federal, state, and regional policy organizations, foundations, and payers to develop strategies, policies, and programs that support community-based primary health care.
 - Data management and analytics
 - Food access and health care

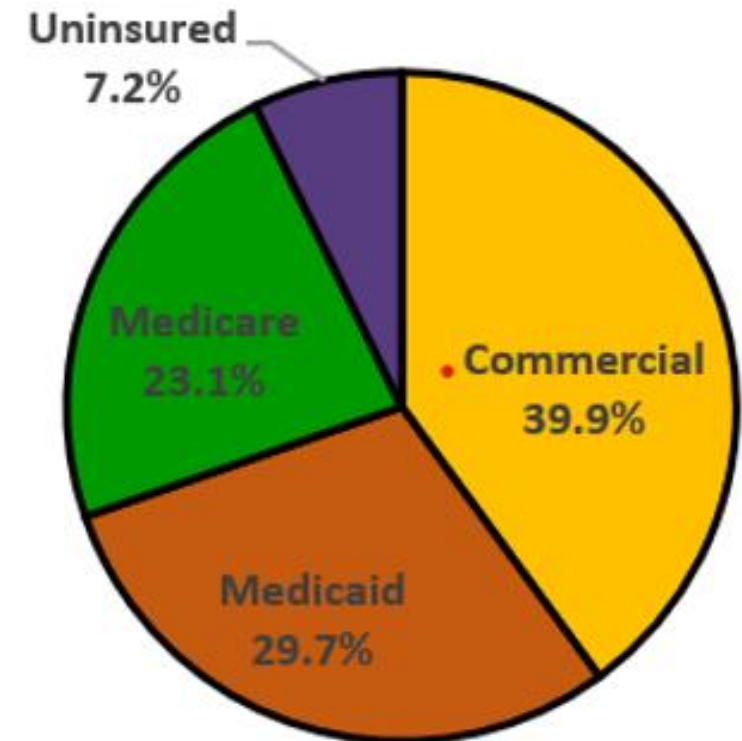
Federally Qualified Health Centers

- Born out of the civil rights and social justice movements of the 1960s with mission to provide health care to communities with a scarcity of providers and services, including rural regions
 - Serve all individuals regardless of ability to pay or insurance status
 - Sliding fee scale available for uninsured and underinsured individuals up to 200% FPL
- Community-based and patient-directed organizations
 - Deliver comprehensive, culturally competent, high-quality primary health care services
 - Provide non-clinical enabling services to increase access to care, such as transportation, translation, and case management.
 - Focus on most vulnerable individuals and families, including agricultural workers, residents of public housing, veterans, and those experiencing homelessness.
- Integrate access to pharmacy, mental health, substance use disorder, and oral health services.

Who We Serve in Vermont

- FQHCs...
 - Served over **184,000 patients** in Vermont.
 - Conducted over **711,000 patient visits**.
- PPNNE serves over 16,000 Vermonters annually
- Free and Referral Clinics serve over 10,000 Vermonters annually

FQHC Patients by Payer in 2021



2021 UDS Data

Where We Serve

Organization (Circles)

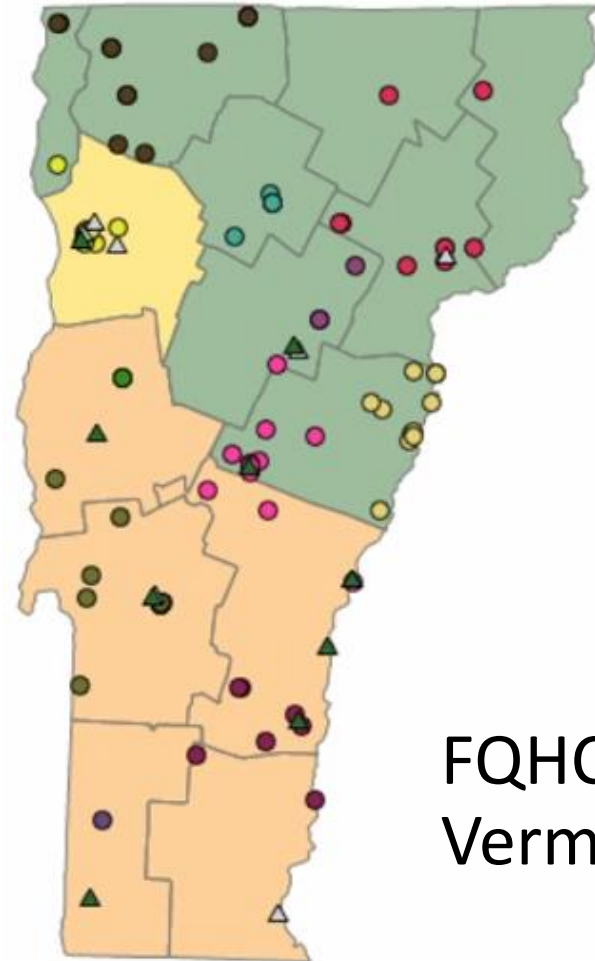
- Battenkill Valley Health Center (FQHC)
- Community Health Centers of Burlington (FQHC)
- Community Health (FQHC)
- Gifford Health Care (FQHC)
- Lamoille Health Partners (FQHC)
- Little Rivers Health Care (FQHC)
- Mountain Health Center (FQHC)
- Northern Counties Health Care (FQHC)
- Northern Tier Center for Health (FQHC)
- North Star Health (FQHC)*
- The Health Center (FQHC)

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England

Vermont Free & Referral Clinics

Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Regions Shaded by County

- Northern Vermont
- Southern Vermont
- UVM



FQHCs offer services in every Vermont county, **across 73 sites.**

*North Star Health has a location in New Hampshire: Charlestown Family Medicine.

Funding Sources

- Federal FQHC grants (330 grant) awarded based on competitive national application process.
- Must meet strict program, performance, and accountability standards, including nearly 100 additional regulations specific to FQHC status.
- Medicare and Medicaid FQHC reimbursement is a prospective encounter rate.
- FQHCs bill commercial insurers similar to other primary care practices.
- Funding from the 330 grants and 340b funds allow FQHCs to offer comprehensive services regardless of ability to pay or insurance status

