



## CHCs: Can They Plug the Gaps in the Safety Net?

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Alliance for Health Reform Briefing  
Washington, D.C.  
July 23, 2012



## Community Tracking Study Background

- Since 1996, HSC researchers have visited 12 metropolitan areas every 2-3 years to understand how the organization, financing and delivery of health care are changing
- The project includes interviews with leaders of safety net providers, including community health centers (CHCs)



## Growth in Federal Funding for CHCs

- Many benefits to attaining FQHC status
- Three-fold increase in federal dollars over past 15 years to support growing need
- But considerable variation in distribution of funds



## State and Local Support Important

- State and local policy makers and organizations can help demonstrate need, build capabilities
- Many state and local governments have provided funding to CHCs, but waning
- Collaboration among providers helps



## Reliance on Medicaid Program

- Medicaid enrollees a growing proportion of CHC patients
- Cost-based reimbursement to help cover range of health and enabling services provided
- Proactive in Medicaid managed care



## Expanded Role Under Reform

- Planning for more patients
- Additional funds available for expansions, renovations, workforce development
- Federal committee revising method for assessing underserved areas
- Involvement in new payment models



## Potential Future Challenges

- Ongoing federal, state and local budget shortfalls
- State discretion in expanding Medicaid
- Growing expectations
- Health centers and clinics without federal status



## Funding Acknowledgement

- The 2010 Community Tracking Study site visits and resulting publications were funded jointly by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Institute for Health Care Reform

