The Health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders Served at Health Centers: An Analysis of the 2021 Uniform Data System

December 2023
AA&NHPI-Serving and NHPI-Serving Health Centers
AANHPI-Serving and NHPI-Serving Health Centers

Highlights

• Based on AAPCHO’s definition of “AA&NHPI-serving” and “NHPI-serving” health centers, AAPCHO identified 137 AA&NHPI-serving health centers and 39 NHPI-serving health centers.

• The 137 AA&NHPI-serving health centers served 8,210,845 patients in 2021. The 39 NHPI-serving health centers served 2,411,149 patients.

• AA&NHPI-serving health centers serve 70.1% of all AA and NH/PI patients in the health center program and NHPI-serving health centers serve 58.6% of NH/PI patients in the health center program.

• On average, AA&NHPI- and NHPI-serving health centers served a greater number of patients per health center.

• California (351,881), New York (107,304), Washington (83,861), Hawaii (80,428), and Massachusetts (61,376) had the greatest number of AAs and NH/PIs served by AA&NHPI-serving health centers.

• Hawaii (50,479), Federated States of Micronesia (21,049), Washington (13,495), Palau (11,144), and American Samoa (10,540) had the greatest number of NH/PIs served by AA&NHPI-serving health centers.
• Kentucky (19.1%), Florida (17.7%), Arizona (17.1%), Pennsylvania (15.4%), and Indiana (11.9%) had the greatest percentage growth of AAs and NH/PIs served at AANHPI-serving health centers.

• Indiana (28.27%), Hawaii (9.10%), Washington (5.68%), Guam (4.11%), and Palau (3.64%) had the greatest percentage growth of NH/PIs served at NHPI-serving health centers.

Introduction

With nearly 1,400 health centers throughout the continental U.S., Hawai‘i, U.S. Territories, and Compacts of Free Association (COFA) nations, health centers serve a diverse population. Each community has its own unique characteristics and health needs. Health centers must not only provide health and medical care to their patients. They must also understand the social and cultural contexts of their communities.

Uniform Data System (UDS) data provides information on health center patient population characteristics, workforce staffing and utilization, quality of care measures, selected infectious disease diagnoses, as well as costs and revenues. This section provides a general overview of AA&NHPI-serving and NHPI-serving health centers.
Defining AA&NHPI- and NHPI-Serving Health Centers in the UDS

The Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) defines “AA&NHPI-serving health centers” as health centers that served the highest number of Asian American (AA), Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (NH/PI) patients as reported in the 2021 UDS dataset. Specifically, the top 10% of all health centers serving this population reported in the UDS are considered a “AA&NHPI-serving health center for the purpose of this report. AAPCHO defines “NHPI-serving health centers” as health centers that serve greater or equal to 1,000 NH/PI patients as reported in the 2021 UDS dataset.

Based on these definitions, AAPCHO identified and analyzed a total of 137 AA&NHPI-serving health centers and 39 NHPI-serving health centers from the 2021 UDS dataset. All 39 identified NHPI-serving health centers are included as a subset within the 137 identified AA&NHPI-serving health centers. It is important to note that NH/PI populations may overlap in both AA&NHPI-serving health center and NHPI-serving health center groups, although the two categories are separated to highlight NH/PI communities.

For the NHPI-serving health center definition, 1,000 patients were determined as the threshold number for the health centers serving NH/PIs based on community feedback on previous UDS analysis reports. AAPCHO learned that health centers often increase their workforce capacity when patient population counts of new racial and ethnic subgroups and their language needs exceed 1,000.
AAPCHO intentionally does not use the same method for defining AA&NHPI-serving health centers as it does for NHPI-serving health centers. If the definition for NHPI-serving health centers were to be applied to AA and NH/PI, then the number of health centers that serve AA and NH/PIs would expand from 138 to 231 health centers. This would represent 16.8% of health centers nationally. The larger overlap with the health centers nationally would mask some unique characteristics of AA and NH/PI populations and impede efforts to identify population-specific health trends. Lastly, AAPCHO did not identify a separate group of AA-serving health centers because this health center group would have a large overlap with the AA&NHPI-serving health centers, thus making the report findings repetitive.

**Definitions of AA&NHPI-Serving and NHPI-Serving Health Centers**

**AA&NHPI-serving health centers:** The top 10% of health centers in terms of the number of AA and NH/PI patients served at the health center in 2021.

**NHPI-serving health centers:** Health centers that served greater or equal to 1,000 NH/PI patients combined in 2021.

**AA&NHPI- and NHPI-Serving Health Centers in the UDS**

- 137 AA&NHPI-serving health centers
- 39 NHPI-serving health centers

In 2021, from a total of 1,373 health centers in the continental U.S., Hawai’i, U.S. Territories, and COFA nations reported their data to the UDS, AAPCHO identified 137 AA&NHPI-serving health centers and 39 NHPI-serving health centers. The following table provides a breakdown of the total number of AA&NHPI-serving and NHPI-serving health centers and their locations.
Table 1. Total Number of AA&NHPI-Serving and NHPI-Serving Health Centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># of Health Centers in 2021</th>
<th># of AA&amp;NHPI-serving Health Centers in 2021</th>
<th># of NHPI-serving Health Centers in 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continental U.S.</td>
<td>1,327</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawai‘i</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Territories</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(American Samoa, Guam,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Marianna Islands,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico, U.S.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgin Islands)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COFA Nations</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Republic of the</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Islands,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federated States of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micronesia, Republic of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palau)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,373</strong></td>
<td><strong>137</strong></td>
<td><strong>39</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 137 AA&NHPI-serving health centers served 8,210,845 patients in 2021. NHPI-serving health centers served 2,411,149 patients. AA&NHPI-serving health centers provided care for 70.1% of all AA and NH/PI patients in the health center program. This means that of the 1.3 million AA and NH/PI health center patients in 2021, approximately 912,000 sought care at AA&NHPI-serving health centers (70.1%).

On average, AA&NH/PI- and NHPI-serving health centers serve a greater number of patients than health centers nationally. In 2021 on average, AA&NH/PI-serving health centers served 59,933 patients and NHPI-serving health centers served 61,824 patients compared to 21,990 patients at health centers nationally.
AA and NH/PI and NH/PI Patient Locations

AA and NH/PI populations reside in diverse parts of the continental U.S., Hawai‘i, U.S. Territories, and COFA nations. The top five states and USAPI jurisdictions with the highest number of AA and NH/PI patients served by AA&NHPI-serving health centers are California, New York, Washington, Hawai‘i, and Massachusetts. This trend has remained the same since 2017. However, some states experienced an increase in the number of their AA and NH/PI patients. The table below shows that in 2021 Pennsylvania—while not one of the top states with highest number of AA and NH/PI patients served by AA&NHPI-serving health centers—demonstrated one of the largest increases in the number of AA and NHPI patients attending AA&NHPI-serving clinics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/USAPI Jurisdiction</th>
<th>AA and NH/PI Patient Growth by Raw Numbers</th>
<th>Number of AA&amp;NHPI-Serving Health Centers in 2020</th>
<th>Number of AA&amp;NHPI-Serving Health Centers in 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>12,160</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>8,745</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>8,197</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawai‘i</td>
<td>5,154</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>4,345</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Similarly, a number of states demonstrated substantial growth in AA and NH/PI patients as a percent of their total patient population.
Top States/USAPI jurisdictions that experienced new growth (by percent change) of AA and NH/PI patients served at AA&NHPI-serving health centers in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/USAPI Jurisdiction</th>
<th>AA and NH/PI Patient Growth by Percentage Change</th>
<th>Number of AA&amp;NHPI-Serving Health Centers in 2020</th>
<th>Number of AA&amp;NHPI-Serving Health Centers in 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2020, only the Federated States of Micronesia and Arkansas experienced a noticeable growth in the number of NH/PIs served. However, in 2021 the NH/PI patient population at health centers increased in three states as well as Palau and Guam. The table below summarizes the growth by raw numbers and percent change.

Top States/USAPI jurisdictions that experienced new growth (raw numbers) of NH/PI patients served at NHPI-serving health centers in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/USAPI Jurisdiction</th>
<th>NH/PI Patient Growth by Raw Numbers</th>
<th>Number of NHPI-Serving Health Centers in 2020</th>
<th>Number of NHPI-Serving Health Centers in 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hawai‘i</td>
<td>4,211</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guam</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State/USAPI Jurisdiction</td>
<td>NH/PI Patient Growth by Percent Change</td>
<td>Number of NHPI-Serving Health Centers in 2020</td>
<td>Number of NHPI-Serving Health Centers in 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>28.27%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawai‘i</td>
<td>9.10%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>5.68%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guam</td>
<td>4.11%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>3.64%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The latest population growth trends suggest that AA and NH/PI patients are residing in new geographic areas beyond where the majority are served and for various potential reasons (e.g. economic instability, employment opportunities, immigration purposes, displacement from gentrification, etc.). This is an opportunity for health centers to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services for growing AA and NH/PI populations in their surrounding communities and to collect disaggregated racial/ethnic data to better identify specific health and social needs of AA and NH/PI subgroups.

The following sections demonstrate the importance of examining the roles that AA&NHPI-serving and NHPI-serving health centers play in highlighting and addressing health disparities and advancing health equity.
References


18. 42 U.S. Code § 11701.


**Disclaimer**

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