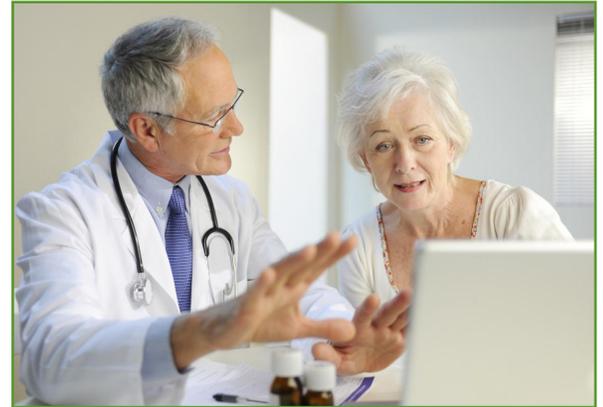


## FAST FACTS: KANSAS SAFETY NET CLINICS

**K**ansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU) – the Primary Care Association of Kansas – represents 44 independently operated safety net clinics with a total of 88 locations that serve more than 261,000 Kansans through approximately 786,000 visits per year.

Each safety net clinic is home-grown, community-governed, and focused on meeting local needs.



### Safety Net Clinics are

**Cost-effective and cost-conscious.** They must be, especially these past few years with the downturn of the economy. Many Kansans who have lost their jobs are without insurance for the first time in their lives and are turning to Kansas safety net clinics to meet their basic health care needs. Clinics are stretching their resources as never before to meet the needs of these newly uninsured Kansans.

**Locally created and controlled.** Thanks to local control and local boards of directors, clinic services are designed to address the most critical needs of the community.

*“I didn’t realize – until I was put in this situation of not being able to afford insurance or health care – how many people are in this same position, and I mean from all walks of life. It’s all good people. They just need help so badly.”*

*– Pat  
Atchison Community Health Center Patient*

**The source of basic, preventive integrated care and advice** for children, elders, the newly unemployed, small-business employees whose employers are unable to offer health insurance benefits, and others seeking the tools to make better choices about their health.

**Promoters of personal responsibility.** Kansas clinics ask every patient to pay a portion of the cost of his or her care. At most clinics, low-income patients without health insurance are charged on a “sliding fee” scale based on their annual income. Free clinics only accept low-income uninsured individuals and provide care for a nominal donation if the patient can afford it. Even when the amount is small, patients invest in their own health care and contribute to their local economies.

Average Cost of **ONE** Emergency Room Visit

**\$1,423\***

VS.

Average Cost of **ONE YEAR** of Safety Net Clinic Care

**\$343**

**The safety net clinic network is an essential alternative to the hospital emergency room.**

Without clinics, many people do not have access to care or money to pay for it and often end up in the emergency rooms, resulting in a higher cost for care.

On average, a *single* emergency room visit in the United States costs the health care system an estimated **\$1,423\***. Contrast that to an *entire year* of care at a safety net clinic, where the average cost per patient is **\$343** – and the care may include medical, dental, and behavioral health services, plus services such as care management, translation, and health education.

\*According to a National Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) 2013

**Economic engines for Kansas.** Safety net clinics in Kansas stimulate economic activity. Clinics provide jobs – sometimes one of the largest employers in a community, buy goods and services from local businesses, and engage in capital building projects.

**Safety net clinics have a history of bi-partisan support.** Over the last several years, policy makers from both sides of the aisle have championed efforts to support the work of the safety net clinic network.

Today, Kansas safety net clinics continue to bring quality care to the disabled, the working poor, and the recently unemployed. The network has grown as policy makers have recognized that people facing barriers to good health desperately need an alternative to expensive emergency room care.



*“Safety net clinics provide a much needed service and fill a big gap in the community. There are a lot of people who just don’t have access to health care. The people who need health care the most have the hardest time getting it, and that’s where safety net clinics come in.”*

*– Dr. Rob Freelove  
Salina Family HealthCare Center*

Please share your questions or comments with KAMU:

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