

Data Highlights: Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

August 2019

What is a CCBHC?

The [Excellence in Mental Health Act demonstration](#) established a federal definition and criteria for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), which provide a comprehensive range of addiction and mental health services to vulnerable individuals. In return, CCBHCs receive a Medicaid reimbursement rate based on their anticipated costs of expanding services to meet the needs of these complex populations. CCBHCs must provide nine types of services, with an emphasis on the provision of both substance use and mental health care, 24-hour crisis care, evidence-based practices, and care coordination.

Impact on Staff Hiring

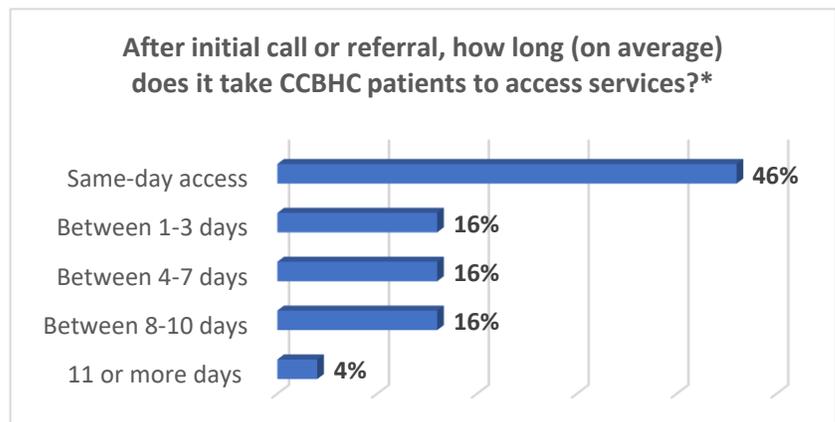
Based on responses to a November 2018 survey, CCBHCs have hired an estimated **3,009 new staff**—an average of **46 new staff per CCBHC**. Responses from earlier surveys indicated that **psychiatrists, including addiction psychiatrists and child/adolescent psychiatrists** are one of the key specialties CCBHCs are adding to their staff with their increased funding.

Impact on Patient Caseloads

Increased hiring directly affects patient caseloads. In the same November 2018 survey of 47 clinics, 90% indicated they had increased their annual patient caseload since becoming a CCBHC; within those clinics, **patient caseloads increased by an average of 24.8%**. The 47 CCBHC respondents now serve 306,084 patients—most of whom are newly engaged in services for the first time.

Impact on Wait Times

Since becoming a CCBHC, **68 percent** of clinics have seen a *decrease* in patient wait times, while **30 percent** have seen wait times remain steady despite increases in patient caseloads across most CCBHCs. After an initial call or referral, **78 percent** of CCBHCs can offer an appointment within a week or less. In contrast, the national average wait time for services can stretch up to 48 days.



Impact on Scope of Available Addiction Care

In a May 2018 survey, **100% of CCBHCs reported leveraging their CCBHC status to launch new addiction treatment services or expand the scope of their addiction care**. For many, these activities represent the first time such services have been available in their communities. **CCBHC status has helped 92% of clinics expand access to medication-assisted treatment via expanded training and hiring**.

Impact on Integrated Care

100% of CCBHCs have integrated mental health, addiction, and primary care by leveraging their payment rate to support staff hiring, training, care coordination and/or establishing referral relationships with other providers.