



[www.CHAMPSonline.org](http://www.CHAMPSonline.org)

# Winter 2017 Quarterly Newsletter

Published February 13, 2017

**Thank You  
CHAMPS  
Members!**

CHAMPS would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the 58 Region VIII health centers and State Primary Care Associations (SPCAs) who supported CHAMPS through organizational membership in 2016-2017. Organizational members are what make CHAMPS' quality programs and services possible. Throughout this issue you will find articles with information about the offerings CHAMPS provided to Region VIII last year (see "Membership Year in Review," page 2), and about upcoming programs in 2017.

## Don't Miss 2017 CHAMPS Trainings

CHAMPS will offer a variety of face-to-face and distance trainings for Region VIII health centers in the coming months. More information about these valuable learning opportunities can be found in the list below, throughout this newsletter, and on the [CHAMPS website](http://www.champs.org).

- ★ Registration is open for the CHAMPS **2016 Region VIII Health Center Workforce Data** webcast on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 11:30AM MT/12:30PM CT. *Page 6*
- ★ Registration is open for the CHAMPS/NWRPCA **Critical Skills for First Time CHC Supervisors and Managers** course March 21-22, 2017 in Portland, OR. *Page 4*
- ★ Registration is open for CHAMPS' **Spanish Language for Health Care Professionals** course April 21-24, 2017 in Denver, CO. *Page 7*
- ★ CHAMPS/NWRPCA **Annual Primary Care Conference** will offer a range of sessions for professional development and discussion October 21-24, 2017 in Seattle, WA. Visit the CHAMPS [Annual Conference](#) webpage for more details as they become available.

**Congratulations!  
New Access Point  
Funding for  
Two Region VIII  
Health Centers**

In December 2016 Secretary Burwell announced over \$50 million in New Access Point funding for 75 health centers across the nation, including two in Region VIII: **Northland Health Partners in Turtle Lake, ND** and the **University of Wyoming in Laramie, WY**.

To learn more about these awards, click [here](#).

## Inside this Issue

- ★ [CHAMPS News](#) (pg. 2-4): CHAMPS Membership Year in Review, Health Center Needs Assessment, 2016 Annual Conference Recordings, 2015 Region VIII UDS Report, New CHAMPS Programs & Communications Coordinator
- ★ [Workforce News](#) (pg. 4-7): Critical Skills for First Time CHC Supervisors and Managers Course, Archived Online Trainings, JOB Comparison Report, 2016 Region VIII Staffing and Productivity Reports, Region VIII Health Center Workforce Data Webcast, National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement
- ★ [MPCN News](#) (pg. 7-8): Spanish Language Training, HRSA Primary Care Practitioner Supply and Demand Projections, New External Resources, Heart Health Month, SBHC Awareness Month
- ★ [Outreach & Enrollment News](#) (pg. 9-10): 2017 OE Distance Learning Series, ACA Effects in Region VIII, HHS Uninsured Mapping Resources, Tax Season Resources, ACA Effects on Consumers with Pre-Existing Conditions, Secretary Burwell's Final ACA Speech
- ★ [Special/Vulnerable Populations News](#) (pg. 10-11): New NCFH Mini-Lessons, New Runaway Youth Resources, AI/AN Enrollment Resources, CDC Report on Causes of Death in Rural U.S.
- ★ [Regional & National News](#) (pg. 11-12): 2017 NACHC Policy & Issues Forum, *Out In the Rural*, Capital Link Resiliency Resource Library, Housing = Health, Region VIII in the News
- ★ [Event Calendar & CHAMPS Contacts](#) (pg. 13)

## CHAMPS Membership Year in Review: April 2016–March 2017

Offered face-to-face and remote **Learning Opportunities** to more Than 1,850 participants who earned over 2,500 hours of continuing education credit

- ★ [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) with 66 sessions and networking events
- ★ 23 [Live Distance Learning Events](#)
- ★ [Spanish Language Training For Health Care Professionals](#)
  - ★ [Critical Skills for Mid-Level Managers Course](#)

Published **Region-Wide Data, Trends, and Contacts** to assist with future planning and to facilitate the sharing of best practices

- ★ [Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey Report](#)
- ★ [Region VIII Health Center Clinical Staffing and Provider Productivity Reports](#)
  - ★ [CHAMPS Quarterly Newsletters](#)
  - ★ [Region VIII BPHC UDS Summaries](#)
- ★ [Region VIII CHC Annual Measure of Finance, Operations, and Productivity](#)
  - ★ [Region VIII Data Summaries](#)
  - ★ [Region VIII Health Center T/TA Needs Assessment](#)
- ★ [Region VIII JOB Comparison Report](#)

Provided professional, administrative, and educational **Support to Clinicians** through the **Mountain/Plains Clinical Network (MPCN)**

- ★ [MPCN Steering Committee](#)
  - ★ [Clinicians Listserv](#)
- ★ [Project ECHO Peer Learning Communities](#)
- ★ Partnerships with Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center, Western Clinicians Network, American Cancer Society, National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Addressed **Workforce Needs** through promotion of **Health Center Career Opportunities** and **Collaboration** with regional and national partners

- ★ Over 230 positions advertised via the CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#)
- ★ Over 600 job seekers received monthly [JOB highlights emails](#)
- ★ [Education Health Center Initiative](#)
  - ★ [New Employment Screening Preferred Pricing Program](#)

Supported **Outreach and Enrollment** efforts though resources, trainings, and communications

- ★ 4 new live and archived [Distance Learning Events](#)
- ★ [Online resources](#) updated regularly, with the newest trainings, toolkits, outreach materials, etc.
- ★ Regular updates to PCA and health center staff via [social media](#) and email

The **CHAMPS website**, [www.CHAMPSonline.org](http://www.CHAMPSonline.org), remained a vital resource for board members and clinical and non-clinical staff of Region VIII health centers with new and updated resources

- ★ [New Video Tutorial of CHAMPS Clinical Resources](#)
- ★ [New Breastfeeding Resources](#)
- ★ [Updated Patient Self-Management Tools](#)

The **2017-2018 CHAMPS Membership Year begins April 1, 2017.**

Membership requests will be sent in late March.

Thank you for your ongoing support of CHAMPS' programs and services!

### Health Center Needs Assessment Results Guide CHAMPS' T/TA Planning

In late November 2016, CHAMPS and Region VIII's State Primary Care Associations (SPCAs) distributed the **2016/2017 Region VIII Health Center Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Needs Assessment** to leadership staff at the region's 61 health centers. Over 267 people from 92.4% of the region's health centers responded, providing information about their organizations' T/TA needs.

★ **Participants' top ranked challenges/concerns were:**

1. Recruitment of Providers
2. Staff Retention
3. Meeting Patient Targets/Projections
4. Billing/Coding Issues
5. Clinic Operations

★ Participants also ranked their need for T/TA relating to topics in the areas of Access to Care, Operational Excellence, and Health Outcomes and Health Equity.

**The top 10 ranked topics for Region VIII were:**

1. Preparing for Payment Reform
2. Alternative Payment Model (APM) Options
3. Role of Health Centers in APMs
4. Partnerships to Offset Costs for Patients
5. Improving Care Delivery through APMs
6. Aligning APM Outcome Metrics
7. Leveraging APMs for Funding Non-Medical Services
8. Partnerships to Fund Programs that Improve Health Outcomes
9. Staff Engagement/Satisfaction
10. Support Staff Professional Development

CHAMPS and each Region VIII SPCA will use these results, as well as more in-depth analysis of various topics, to update current programs and services, identify new areas for T/TA, and guide short-term and long-term planning in support of successful health centers.

*Questions? Contact Andrea Martin, CHAMPS Workforce Development & Member Services Director, at [Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org) or 303-867-9581.*

### CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Conference Session Recordings Available

Session resources and recordings from the 2016 CHAMPS/NWRPCA Annual Primary Care Conference are now available via the NWRPCA website in their [Learning Vault](#) (conference registration login required). Session topics range from clinical areas to policy, governance, fiscal, and workforce subjects. For more information on 2016 conference sessions, award recipients, and other details, visit the CHAMPS [Annual Primary Care Conference](#) webpage. (Image at right: Opening Plenary during the 2016 conference).

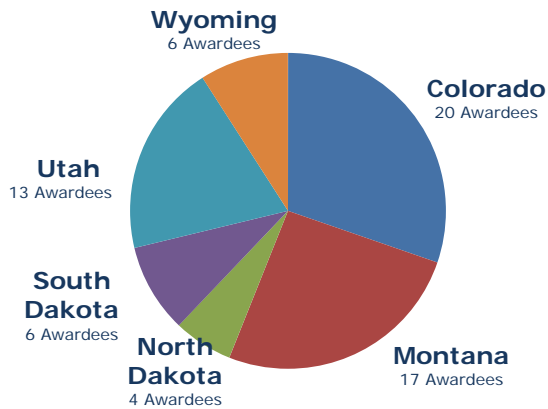


***Looking for more ways to stay up to date on CHAMPS and  
Region VIII health center news?***

**Follow CHAMPS on LinkedIn** to receive information about our trainings, events, and resources in your newsfeed. You can also become a member of our **LinkedIn Discussion Group** to join the conversation about health centers, best practices, and new resources. Please contact Rachel Steinberg, CHAMPS Programs & Communications Coordinator, with questions related to our LinkedIn pages at [Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org).

## Now Available: 2015 Region VIII UDS Summary

Each year CHAMPS produces a report summarizing multiple years of **Uniform Data System (UDS)** information for Health Center Program Awardees in Region VIII. The [2015 Region VIII BPHC Uniform Data System \(UDS\) Summary](#) and related two-page [2015 Region VIII Health Center Fact Sheet](#) are available on the CHAMPS website; please click on the links above to download these free electronic documents.



### **Region VIII, 2011-2015:**

- ★ The number of Health Center Program awardees has grown 17.9%.
- ★ The number of patients served increased 15.5%.
- ★ The number of visits increased 14.2%.
- ★ Staff Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) increased 34.2%.

*Image at left: 2015 Health Center Program Awardees in each Region VIII state.*

*Download Region VIII UDS Summaries from prior years by visiting the [CHAMPS Publications](#) webpage.*

## Rachel Steinberg Joins CHAMPS Team

In January CHAMPS welcomed Rachel Steinberg as the new **Programs & Communications Coordinator**. Rachel is responsible for coordinating and implementing CHAMPS' communications, trainings, and various workforce, operations, and clinical programs. After earning her Bachelor of Arts in anthropology and English from the College of William and Mary, Rachel worked as a museum educator at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and then served as an AmeriCorps VISTA in the Indian Health Service clinics on the Wind River Indian Reservation. Rachel can be reached at [Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org) or at (303) 867-9584.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

*Encouraging successful careers and strong, cutting-edge organizations by providing live and archived continuing education, recruitment and retention tools, and the latest information on current trends and statistics. Learn more [here](#).*

### Registration Open: NWRPCA/CHAMPS Critical Skills for First Time CHC Supervisors and Managers Course

*March 21-22, 2017 in Portland, OR*



This course offers intensive, hands-on, and immediately applicable skill-building to help ensure that new health center leaders are able to successfully navigate management and supervisory roles. Training is designed for newer supervisory/managerial staff, and includes face-to-face, virtual, group, and one-on-one educational and networking opportunities. Topics include: developing flexible, responsive, productive, and customer-focused teams; utilizing behavioral interviewing to hire staff with the right skills and fit for the long-term; coaching and developing employees; communicating for results, strengthening trust, and de-escalating conflict; driving accountability and delivering results; leading and managing change; building strong, professional relationships with supervisors, leaders, peers, former peers, and direct reports; avoiding common legal pitfalls when managing employees; and creating a culture of customer service. **Register early, as class size is limited!**

*Visit the CHAMPS [Leadership Learning Opportunities](#) webpage for details and registration link.*

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS, *Continued*

### Continuing Education is Available on Your Schedule!

*Don't miss the opportunity to learn from these archived CHAMPS trainings...*

Live CHAMPS Distance Learning Events are recorded to allow health center staff ongoing access to professional development, clinical knowledge, and workforce strategy resources. Current archived workforce development events include:

- ★ [Utilizing Mindfulness to Reduce Stress and Prevent Burnout](#) – Explores factors contributing to burnout, personal and organizational risks posed by burnout, and various stress-management and mindfulness skills (available through 4/19/2017).
- ★ [Creating a Productive Healthcare Environment: Enhancing Teambuilding](#) – Discusses benefits of teams for enhancing patient care, how to build superior teams, responsibilities of team members, and handling conflict (available through 5/17/2017).
- ★ [Creating a Productive Healthcare Environment: Decreasing Negative Attitudes](#) – Outlines the destructive impacts of negative attitudes in the workplace, their primary causes, and strategies for preventing and addressing such attitudes effectively (available through 6/14/2017).
- ★ [Creating a Productive Healthcare Environment: Establishing Boundaries](#) – Describes behaviors that violate appropriate boundaries, steps for setting boundaries, and strategies to address boundary violations (available through 7/19/2017).
- ★ [Caring for Difficult Patients in a Complex Healthcare System](#) – Presents information on the identification of “difficult” patients, how providers and systems contribute to the problem, and strategies to more effectively manage these patients (available through 8/16/2017).
- ★ [Interpersonal Considerations for Care of Elderly Persons](#) – Reviews barriers to effective communication with older adults and ways to address them (available through 9/20/2017).

*For more details about each event, visit the CHAMPS [Online Archived Distance Learning](#) webpage.*

*Visit the CHAMPS [Lending Library](#) and [Electronic Media](#) webpages to learn about distance learning events on CD.*

### JOB Data Comparison Report Highlights Recruitment Trends

The CHAMPS online [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#) is a free resource advertising career opportunities in Region VIII health centers and Primary Care Associations. Each February, CHAMPS creates a two-year comparison report of the health center-specific data relating to these postings. This annual report illustrates recruitment efforts and trends throughout Region VIII, including types of positions recruited, average recruitment lengths, and successful recruitment resources. Highlights from the February 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017 data include:

- ★ **56 different Region VIII health centers advertised 422 career opportunities.**
- ★ There was a **148% increase in behavioral health** positions posted, a **45% increase in clinical dental** positions, and a **36% increase in clinical support** positions as compared to 2015-2016.
- ★ Of the filled clinical positions, the **longest average recruitment length was for physician/medical director positions** (16.3 months) followed by PA/NP/CNM positions (9.0 months) and dentist/dental director positions (3.7 months).
- ★ The **top four recruitment resources** were online listings, internal hires, employee referrals, and newspaper/local advertising.

*Download the [Region VIII Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\) Data Comparison Report](#).*

*To post a position on the CHAMPS Job Opportunities Bank, contact Rachel Steinberg, CHAMPS Programs & Communications Coordinator, at [Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org) or 303-867-9584.*

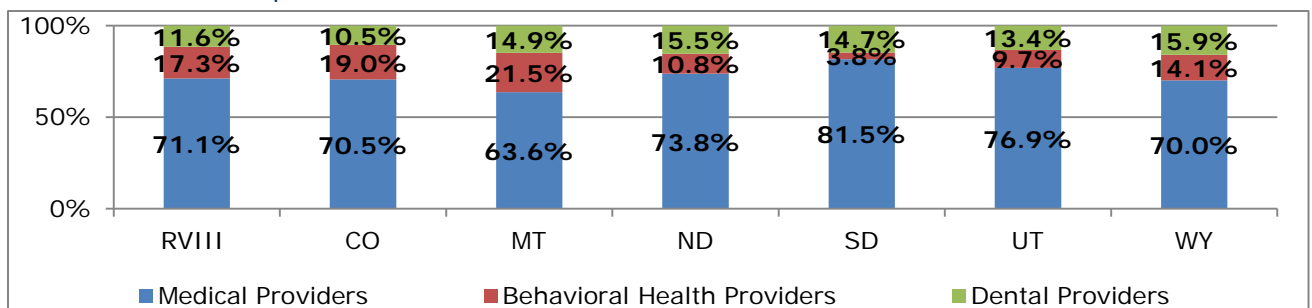
### Now Available: CHAMPS Reports on 2016 Region VIII Health Center Clinical Staffing Levels and Productivity Expectations

In February 2017 CHAMPS released two companions to the [2016 Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey Report](#) published in October 2016.

The **2016 Region VIII Health Center Clinical Staffing Report** utilized Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) data reported in the salary survey for every employee at each reporting health center to highlight staffing ratios and trends with a **focus on medical, behavioral health, and dental provider and support employees**. The report includes breakdowns of data for each Region VIII state, comparisons with 2012 and 2014 data for medical staff, details about the types of providers and support staff utilized within each of the three clinical areas, and support staff to provider staff ratios for the medical and dental areas.

#### Regional highlights from the Staffing Report include:

- ★ 59.9% of 2016 employee FTEs reported by participating Region VIII health centers were clinical staff; 40.1% were administrative staff.
- ★ Of the total 3,500 FTE medical, behavioral health, and dental providers (see graph below), 71.1% were medical providers, 17.3% were behavioral health providers, and 11.6% were dental providers.



The **2016 Region VIII Health Center Medical and Dental Provider Productivity Expectations Report** includes information about health center expectations for weekly hours, administrative vs. patient contact hours ratio, and completed visits for full-time Medical Directors, Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Dental Directors, and Dentists. The report also presents information about standard patient panel sizes for these providers.

*Copies of the **2016 Region VIII Health Center Staffing Report** and **2016 Region VIII Health Center Medical and Dental Provider Productivity Expectations Report** have been distributed to all health centers that participated in the 2016 salary survey project. [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) also have access to an electronic version of this report in the [Members Only](#) section of the CHAMPS website (posted on the Salary Survey Reports page; username/password required).*

*Don't miss the related **2016 Region VIII Health Center Workforce Data** webcast beginning at 11:30AM Mountain Time / 12:30PM Central Time on March 7, 2017. See page 7 for more details.*

*Please contact [Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org) with any questions.*

#### **Looking for a Job?**

Check out the CHAMPS [Job Opportunities Bank \(JOB\)](#)!

There are **over 150 positions currently posted** in the areas of Administrative/Management, Behavioral Health, Clinical Support, Dental, Medical, and Non-Clinical Support.

You can also [click here to sign up for monthly emails](#) about new JOB postings.

### Registration Open:

### 2016 Region VIII Health Center Workforce Data Webcast

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 11:30AM-1:00PM Mountain Time / 12:30PM-2:00PM Central Time

The health centers of Region VIII make up a unique group of employers that benefit from analysis of their own workforce-related benchmarks and trends. During the spring and summer of 2016, CHAMPS undertook a region-wide survey of the region's community, migrant, and homeless health centers to collect salary, benefits, and other workforce data from 55 organizations. On March 7, 2017, CHAMPS Workforce Development & Member Services Director Andrea Martin will host a webcast entitled, **2016 Region VIII Health Center Workforce Data: Understanding and Utilizing Statistics from the CHAMPS Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey Project**, explaining the history and methodology of the survey and highlighting findings relating to salaries and benefits for all health center staff. The event will address additional workforce metrics including vacancies, turnover, and challenging areas of recruitment and retention, and will present an analysis of data relating to medical, behavioral health, and dental provider vs. support staffing ratios as well as medical and dental provider productivity expectations.

*Participation in this webcast is FREE for participants from [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) as well as [others that submitted data](#) for the **2016 Region VIII Health Center Salary, Benefits, Turnover, and Vacancy Survey Project**.*

*Visit the CHAMPS [Upcoming Live Distance Learning Events](#) webpage for more details and registration.*

### New Program Advances Role of MAs in Team-Based Care

The National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA) provides a new and innovative approach to medical assistant training. This collaboration between two nationally recognized health centers – Community Health Center, Inc. (Connecticut) and **Salud Family Health Centers** (Colorado) – offers seven months of online learning and in-clinic experiences to prepare medical assistants for work in patient-centered health care settings. NIMAA is part time (25 hours per week) and includes personalized mentoring and examination support, with the ultimate goal of reducing the tuition debt load for MAs while providing a streamlined learning program. To learn more, visit [NIMAA's website](#).

---

## MOUNTAIN/PLAINS CLINICAL NETWORK (MPCN) NEWS

*Providing professional, administrative, and educational support to all clinicians that practice in Community, Migrant, and Homeless Health Centers in Region VIII to ensure the delivery of the highest possible quality of care to poor and underserved populations. Learn more [here](#).*

### Registration Open: CHAMPS Annual Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals

April 21-24, 2017 in Denver, CO



CHAMPS, in conjunction with Denver Medical Society, offers an annual **medical Spanish language training for clinicians and clinical support staff** at Region VIII health centers. This four-day course is an intensive, conversational and medical Spanish workshop consisting of medical dialogues, roleplays, visual aids, cross-cultural discussions, and daily practice. The course curriculum provides an experience of immersion learning, an approach that is highly suitable for those with limited time, and who must use their new language skills immediately with their Spanish-speaking patients. Beginner and intermediate skill levels will be offered, with separate classes for each level. The cost of the course is \$649 for CHAMPS and Denver Medical Society (DMS) member organizations and \$799 for Non-Members. **Register early, as class size is limited!**

*For more information and to register, visit the CHAMPS [Events & Trainings](#) webpage.*

*Visit the [CHAMPS Organizational Members](#) webpage to see if your organization is a current member.*

## HRSA Projects Supply and Demand for Primary Care Practitioners

HRSA's "National and Regional Projections of Supply and Demand for Primary Care Practitioners: 2013-2025" report estimates that in the next decade demand for primary care physicians will outpace supply, while the opposite will be true for nurse practitioners and physician assistants. By 2025, HRSA projects that the western region (AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY) will be most in need of general internal medicine practitioners, and will also have a significant undersupply of general and family medicine physicians and pediatricians. The report notes that while NPs and PAs cannot replace physicians, studies have shown that they can augment and expand physician capacity. These findings indicate that, with delivery system changes, additional NPs and PAs can be used to help alleviate the projected shortage of physicians in the coming years. To access the full report, [click here](#).

### New External Resources:

- ★ Check out Million Hearts' [Evidence Based Cholesterol Management Protocols](#), a resource designed to help providers manage and lower cholesterol levels among at-risk patients.
- ★ The Office of Minority Health's (OMH) National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA) offers a [Compendium of Data and Resources for Reducing Health Disparities](#) containing links to 132 public datasets on factors that impact the health of minority populations, including data and resources from numerous federal agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services.
- ★ According to a study by two Harvard researchers, three out of four people admitted to treatment for substance abuse disorders started using alcohol or drugs before age 17 – yet fewer than half of pediatricians are screening adolescent patients for substance abuse. In a recent webcast Dr. John Rogers Knight of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research at Boston Children's Hospital advocated for increased substance abuse screening for adolescents using a new digital method called Computerized Screening and Brief Advice (CSBA). To learn more about the Harvard study, adolescent substance abuse, and Dr. Knight's recommendations, [click here](#).
- ★ For a limited time (through February 17, 2017), viewers can watch the School-Based Health Alliance's five-part webinar series on [Protecting Adolescent Confidentiality in Health Care](#). Viewers will also be able to submit questions to Abigail English, JD, director of the Center for Adolescent Health & the Law.



### February is Heart Health Month!



As part of **National Wear Red Day**, you can support women's heart disease awareness by wearing red every Friday in February. Heart disease and stroke remain the number one cause of death among American women. To learn more about Wear Red Day, [click here](#). For resources on heart disease prevention, please visit <https://millionhearts.hhs.gov/>.



### February is School-Based Health Care Awareness Month!

This month, we recognize the success of school-based health centers (SBHCs) nationwide and work to raise awareness of the ways SBHCs are transforming youth access to healthcare services. Celebrating awareness month is an opportunity to educate national, state, and local policymakers about the importance of SBHCs.

To learn more about SBHCs and how to support them, visit the [School-Based Health Center Alliance website](#).



# OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT NEWS

Assisting Primary Care Associations and health centers in maximizing health insurance coverage for health center patients and communities across Region VIII. Learn more [here](#).

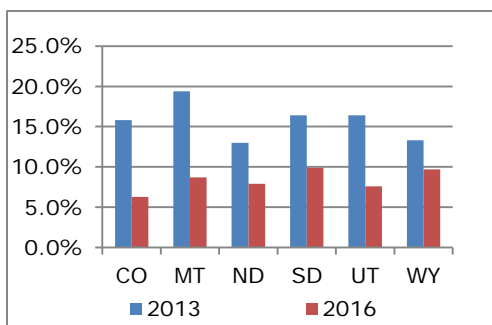
## Coming Soon:

The CHAMPS/CCHN **2017 Outreach and Enrollment Distance Learning Series** will take place this summer!

Look for more information about these events soon on the CHAMPS [Distance Learning Upcoming Events](#) webpage and in our Spring 2017 Newsletter.

## Long-Term ACA Effects on Region VIII

According to an article released by Enroll America in January 2017, Region VIII has seen a significant decline in the number of uninsured patients under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The information below compares the uninsured rates for non-elderly adults by state from 2013 to 2016.



State	2013 Uninsured Rate	2016 Uninsured Rate	Percentage Point Change 2013-2016
Colorado	15.8%	6.3%	-9.5
Montana	19.4%	8.7%	-10.7
North Dakota	13.0%	7.9%	-5.1
South Dakota	16.4%	9.9%	-6.5
Utah	16.4%	7.6%	-8.8
Wyoming	13.3%	9.7%	-3.6

To view the full article and review uninsured rates by year for 2013 through 2016, [click here](#).

## HHS Uninsured Mapping Tool, Tutorial, and FAQs

In November 2016 the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) updated the **Uninsured Outreach Mapping Tool**, which allows users to see the number of uninsured at a block group level. Block groups are statistical divisions in the census, generally containing between 600 and 3,000 people in a defined area. Users have the ability to filter by median household income and age. HHS has also included an instructional presentation with step-by-step screenshots to help assisters utilize the tools and data. Both resources are accessible via the CHAMPS [Outreach and Enrollment Tips and Tools](#) webpage under the Health and Human Services (HHS) heading.

## Tax Season Consumer Resources

The 2017 tax season began Monday, January 23, 2017 and will end Tuesday, April 18, 2017. Everyone who files a tax return in 2017 must verify that they have health insurance that meets ACA minimum essential coverage guidelines; those who do not will be subject to a fine of \$695 per uninsured adult member of the household (\$347.50 per child) or 2.5% of the household's yearly income, whichever is greater. Consumers who have a Marketplace health plan will receive Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 1095-A, which should be used to fill out IRS Form 8962 on the premium tax credit. Consumers who estimated their 2016 income incorrectly when they applied for coverage in 2015 may be subject to premium tax credit reconciliation, where the IRS re-determines how much tax credit a household should have received based on their actual 2016 income and adjusts their tax return accordingly.

To view the IRS 2017 Tax Season announcement, [click here](#).

To view the Questions and Answers about Health Care Information Forms, [click here](#).

To view tax resources available on the CHAMPS webpage, [click here](#).

---

## OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT NEWS, *Continued*

### HHS ASPE Issue Brief Highlights Positive Effects of ACA on Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions

According to a January 2017 Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) [issue brief](#), 51% of non-elderly Americans in 2014 (133 million people) had a pre-existing health condition. Between 2010 and 2014, individuals with pre-existing conditions who went without insurance all year fell by 22%, a drop of 3.6 million people that can be directly attributed to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). While data is only available through 2014, the report posits that it is likely this group has experienced continued gains in access to coverage and care in the past two years.

### Secretary Burwell Gives Final Speech on the ACA

On January 9, 2017, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Sylvia M. Burwell delivered her final speech on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) at the National Press Club. Secretary Burwell highlighted how the ACA has improved the access, quality, and affordability of healthcare for Americans across the nation. Her speech highlighted several personal stories that illustrate the positive impact of the ACA on ordinary Americans. Burwell also discussed the consequences of undoing the progress that has been made by repealing the act.



To view the transcription of Secretary Burwell's speech, [click here](#).

#### **Outreach and Enrollment Resources:**

CHAMPS maintains an online clearinghouse of resources for assisters and printable resources for consumers. You can access these resources on the [Affordable Care Act/Outreach and Enrollment](#) portion of the CHAMPS website.

---

## SPECIAL/VULNERABLE POPULATIONS NEWS

*Increasing the ability of Region VIII health centers to effectively serve populations with limited access to health care by increasing knowledge and enhancing collaborations. Learn more [here](#).*

### Updated Bilingual NCFH Health Education Mini-Lessons

The National Center for Farmworker Health (NCFH) recently expanded their three [bilingual health education mini-lesson series](#), which are designed for use with farmworker teens, out-of-school youth, and adults, as well as with other Hispanic audiences. Each mini-lesson packet within the series includes a teaching plan, introductory lesson, guided practice, useful vocabulary, practice dialogues, and pre-/post-test resources. The three series – A Healthy House, For Your Health, and Let's Talk About Mental Health – comprise a total of 21 different health education mini-lesson packets in both English and Spanish.

To access similar resources, visit the CHAMPS [Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers \(MSFW\) Resources](#) webpage.

### New Youth Runaway Resources Available

The School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA) and the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) have collaborated to present resources on preventing youth homelessness and addressing challenges faced by runaway and homeless youth. This [webpage](#) is intended to raise awareness of the causes of and challenges faced by child runaways, strategies for trauma-informed intervention, and services available to these youth. The page also provides access to the NRS *Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum* and the 24/7 runaway youth in crisis hotline (1-800-RUNAWAY).

---

## SPECIAL/VULNERABLE POPULATIONS NEWS, *Continued*

### New/Updated Enrollment Resources for American Indians and Alaska Natives

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released new and revised resources for outreach to American Indians/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) to help guide conversations about Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), other forms of coverage, and how to access care:

- ★ [From Coverage to Care: A Roadmap to Better Care and a Healthier You](#) – Breaks down the importance of preventive health care, how to navigate the health care system, definitions of common health care terms (e.g., provider, network, deductible, etc.), and how to use health care coverage to access primary care and preventive services.
- ★ [Tribal Glossary](#) – Explains terms commonly used when talking about health insurance, the ACA, and AI/AN health services (e.g., advance premium tax credits, coinsurance, contract health services, purchased/referred care, etc.).
- ★ [Essential Health Benefits for American Indians and Alaska Natives Brochure](#) – Describes the benefits provided by the Marketplace, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) plans, as well as information about how to sign up for health insurance.

### CDC Report on Causes of Death in Rural America

On January 13, 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a study on the five leading causes of death in rural America. [Reducing Potentially Excess Deaths from the Five Leading Causes of Death in the Rural United States](#) highlights the widening gap between rural and urban mortality rates over the past several decades, attributing this trend primarily to "sociodemographic differences." Rural residents, the report says, tend to be older, poorer, and sicker than urban residents. The CDC recommends targeted, needs-based prevention efforts and improved access to treatment for chronic conditions as solutions to reduce these regional disparities in morbidity and mortality.

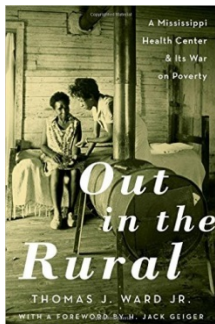
---

## REGIONAL AND NATIONAL NEWS

### Registration Open: 2017 NACHC Policy & Issues Forum

This year's National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Policy & Issues (P&I) Forum will be held in Washington, D.C. March 29-April 1, 2017. P&I focus areas will include the preservation of Medicaid, the unique role of health centers, and ensuring strong funding to increase health center capacity. For more information and to register, visit the [NACHC website](#).

### New Book on the Beginning of the CHC Movement Published



Civil rights historian Thomas J. Ward's *Out in the Rural: A Mississippi Health Center and its War on Poverty* explores the history of our nation's first rural community health center and its mission to provide medical care and bring positive social change to the impoverished Mississippi Delta. The result of more than three years of research, Ward's book details the development of the Tufts-Delta Health Center, its unique role in addressing health issues from malnutrition to unsafe drinking water, and several key clinic founders such as H. Jack Geiger, the "father of community health." *Out in the Rural* is available now in many bookstores and libraries, and at Amazon.com. A short film from 1970 about the clinic, titled *Out in the Rural: A Health Center in Mississippi*, is also available to view [here](#).

### Capital Link Creates Resiliency Resources Library for CHCs & PCAs

*Submitted by Meredith Tzouros, Capital Link*

As America's health care landscape evolves under the new administration, it is particularly important that health centers operate efficiently and effectively in order to weather whatever lies ahead. Capital Link has created a library of resources and tools to assist in resiliency planning, whether the goal is growth, stabilization, or sustainability. To access Capital Link's online resiliency resource library, click [here](#).



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) has released new **Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)** this winter, including:

- ★ [MP-CPI-17-001: Partnerships to Achieve Health Equity](#)  
(Applications due March 31, 2017)
- ★ [MP-AIA-17-001: American Indian/Alaska Native Health Equity Initiative](#)  
(Applications due April 3, 2017)

### Housing = Health Care: Bridging the Landscape in Rural Communities

*Submitted by Jane Bilger, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)*

Community health centers, supportive housing and social service providers, and other health system providers all benefit from partnerships that enable them to share information, coordinate successful strategies, and leverage resources. But creating partnerships is hard work, especially in the face of rural barriers such as long travel distances, limited financial resources, and provider capacity spread too thin. CSH provides technical assistance, helping providers understand and develop strategies that bridge across the sectors. In October 2016, CSH featured a webinar series with providers in three rural communities who discuss how health and housing partnerships are working for them. Next up, CSH is targeting technical assistance in the upcoming National Cooperative Agreement for Primary Care Associations (PCAs) to develop expert guidance and training for health centers to enhance these vital cross-sector connections, especially in rural communities. To access archived webinars and keep up to date on CSH's technical assistance programs and resources, visit the [CSH Training Center](#) webpage.

### Region VIII in the News

- ★ **CO Health Center CEO Defends the ACA:** In an open [letter](#) published January 16 in the Greeley, CO *Tribune*, CEO of Sunrise Community Health Mitzi Moran encouraged political leaders to acknowledge the benefits that the ACA has brought to American consumers and to develop a new plan before repealing the existing law.
- ★ **CPR Discusses ACA Effects on the Underserved:** On January 11, Colorado Public Radio (CPR) published an [article](#) on the positive effects of the ACA on Colorado's underserved communities and on the health centers that provide their care. Interviewees quoted in the article include Chief Ambulatory Officer of Denver Health Dr. Simon Hambidge, as well as several Colorado CHC patients.
- ★ **ND's Coal Country Community Health Center Recognized by NACHC:** The Coal Country Community Health Center in Beulah, ND has been recognized by the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) for its innovative partnership with the Sakakawea Medical Center. In a [blog post](#), NACHC highlights the advantages of critical access hospitals and community health centers collaborating to improve patient care and health outcomes.
- ★ **CHAD Writes Joint Letter Defending Medicaid Expansion and ACA in ND:** In January 2017 the Community Health Care Association of the Dakotas (CHAD), in conjunction with the North Dakota Hospital Association and the North Dakota Medical Association, developed an open [letter](#) directed at state leaders outlining the benefits of expanded Medicaid and ACA coverage to the state's patients, providers, and economy. The letter was published in several state newspapers, including the *Wahpeton Daily News*.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MARCH

### [CHAMPS Region VIII Health Center Workforce Data Webcast](#)

March 7  
Online

### [NWRPCA/CHAMPS Critical Skills for First Time CHC Supervisors and Managers Course](#)

March 21-22  
Portland, OR

### [NACHC Policy & Issues Forum](#)

March 29-April 2  
Washington, D.C.

Visit the  
Interactive  
[Online CHAMPS Calendar](#)  
for continuing updates!

## Contact CHAMPS

**Jennifer Anderson**  
Clinical Programs Director  
[Jen@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Jen@CHAMPSonline.org)  
303-867-9583

**Julie Hulstein**  
Executive Director  
[Julie@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Julie@CHAMPSonline.org)  
303-867-9582

**Andrea Martin**  
Workforce Development &  
Member Services Director  
[Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Andrea@CHAMPSonline.org)  
303-867-9581

**Rachel Steinberg**  
Programs & Communications  
Coordinator  
[Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org)  
303-867-9584

**Valerie Steinmetz**  
Programs/Outreach & Enrollment  
Coordinator  
[Valerie@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Valerie@CHAMPSonline.org)  
303-867-9544

## APRIL

### [MPCA Spring Symposium](#)

April 19-20  
Helena, MT

### [CHAMPS Spanish Language Training for Health Care Professionals](#)

April 21-24  
Denver, CO

## MAY

### [CHAD Membership Conference](#)

May 2-3  
Fargo, ND

### [WYPCA Primary Care Conference](#)

May 3-5  
Casper, WY

### [AUCH Primary Care Conference](#)

May 11-12  
Salt Lake City, UT

### [NACHC Conference for Agricultural Worker Health](#)

May 22-24  
Savannah, GA

## LOOKING AHEAD...

### [NACHC Enhancing Collaborative Management in CHCs Course](#)

June 26-29  
Seattle, WA

### [ACU Annual Conference](#)

July 30-August 2  
Washington, D.C.

### [National Health Center Week](#)

August 13-19



Do you have an article that  
should be in the next CHAMPS  
Quarterly Newsletter?

**Tell us about it!**

Contact CHAMPS Newsletter Editor  
Rachel Steinberg at  
[Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org](mailto:Rachel@CHAMPSonline.org),  
or at 303-867-9584.

**Newsletter Contributors:** Meredith Tzouros (Capital Link), Jane Bilger (Corporation for Supportive Housing), Jennifer Anderson, Julie Hulstein, Andrea Martin, Valerie Steinmetz, Rachel Steinberg

Please contact [Rachel Steinberg](#) (Newsletter Editor) if you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, if you would like to sign up for the newsletter, or if your email address has changed.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under cooperative agreement number U58CS06861, "State and Regional Primary Care Associations," total award of \$519,941, 22% of the total PCA project is financed with non-federal sources. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the US Government.