



# National Association of Free Clinics

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**Executive Director**



## What is a Free Clinic?

*“Free Clinics are volunteer-based, safety-net health care organizations that provide a range of medical, dental, pharmacy, and/or behavioral health services to economically disadvantaged individuals who are predominately uninsured. Free Clinics are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations, or operate as a program component or affiliate of a 501(c)(3) organization. Entities that otherwise meet the above definition, but charge a nominal fee to patients, may still be considered Free Clinics provided essential services are delivered regardless of the patient’s ability to pay.*”



# Free Clinics History

- Since the 1960s, free clinics have been serving America's working poor.
- Free Clinics are a communities response to a health care need in that area



# What is the National Association of Free Clinics (NAFC)?

- The NAFC is the only nonprofit 501c(3) organization whose mission is solely focused on the issues and needs of the more than 1,200 Free Clinics and the people they serve in the United States.
- Founded in 2001 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., the NAFC is an effective advocate for the issues and concerns of Free Clinics, their volunteer workforce of doctors, dentists, nurses, therapists, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, technicians and other health care professionals, and the patients served by Free Clinics in communities throughout the nation.



# What is the NAFC's Mission?

- The NAFC provides research, education and resources to promote, strengthen and advocate for member organizations and the communities they serve.



# What is the NAFC's Vision?

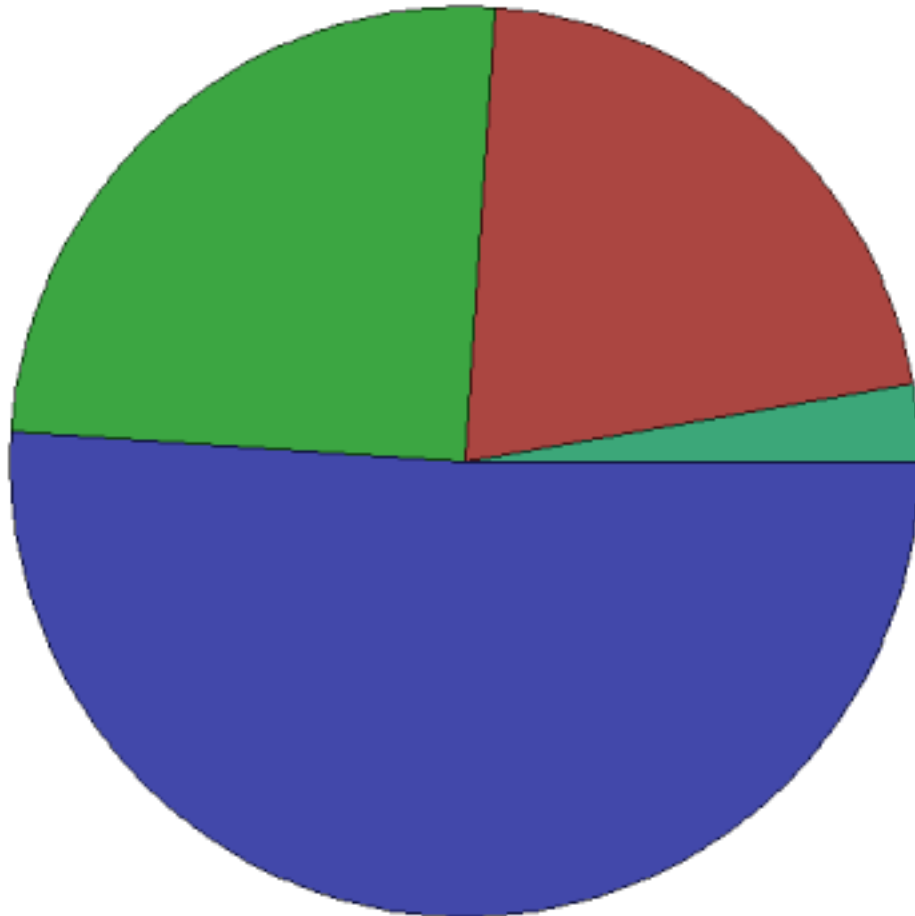
- To be an essential partner in building a healthy America

# Patients

- ***Free Clinics have seen a 40-50% increase in patient demand in the last two years***
- ***In 2008 Free Clinics served 4 Million patients***
- ***In 2009 Free Clinics served 8 Million patients***
- ***63% of Free Clinic Patients come from a working household.***

# Patients by Race/Ethnicity

51 Caucasian = 51.0%  
25 Latino = 25.0%  
21 African American = 21.0%  
3 Other = 3.0%

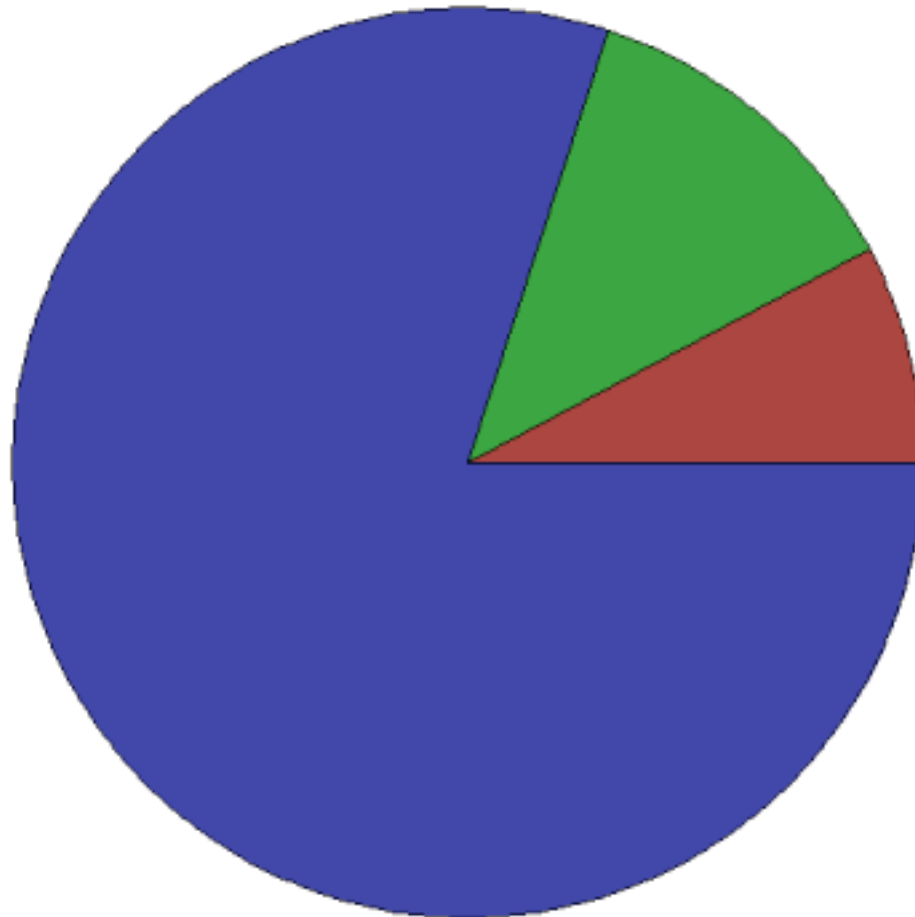


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# Patients by Age

80 18-65 years = 80.0%  
12 0-17 years = 12.0%  
8 65 years of age = 8.0%

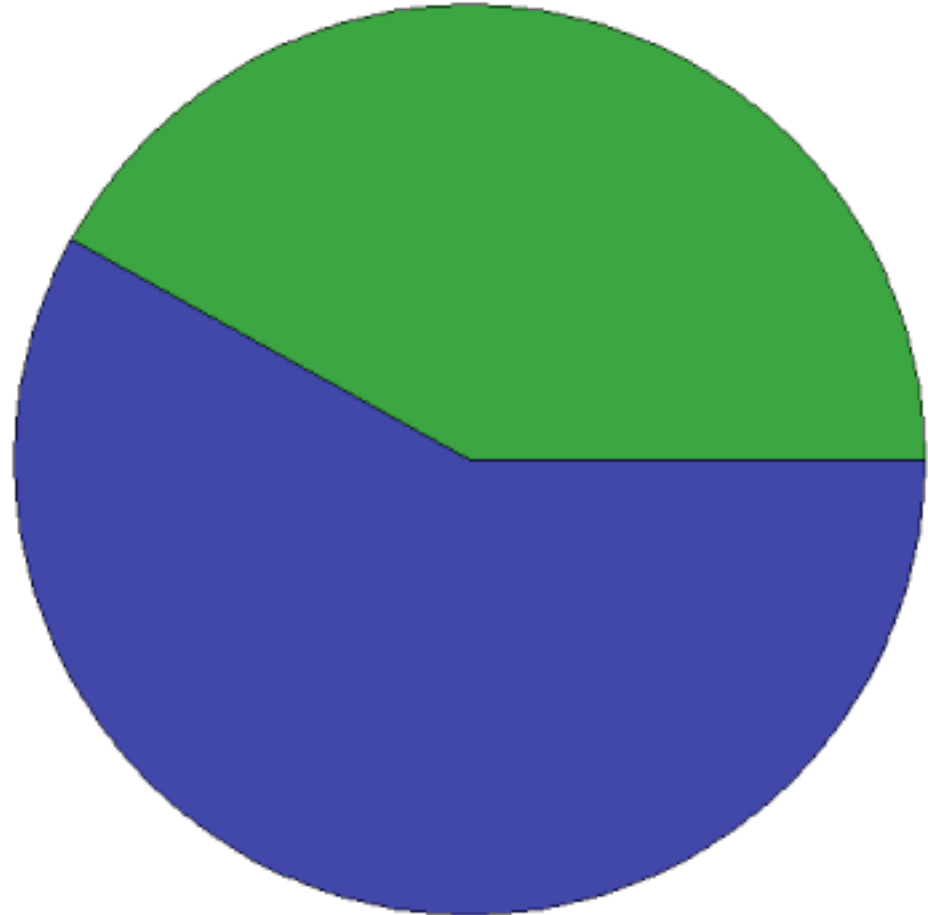


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# Patients By Sex

58 Female = 58.0%

42 Male = 42.0%

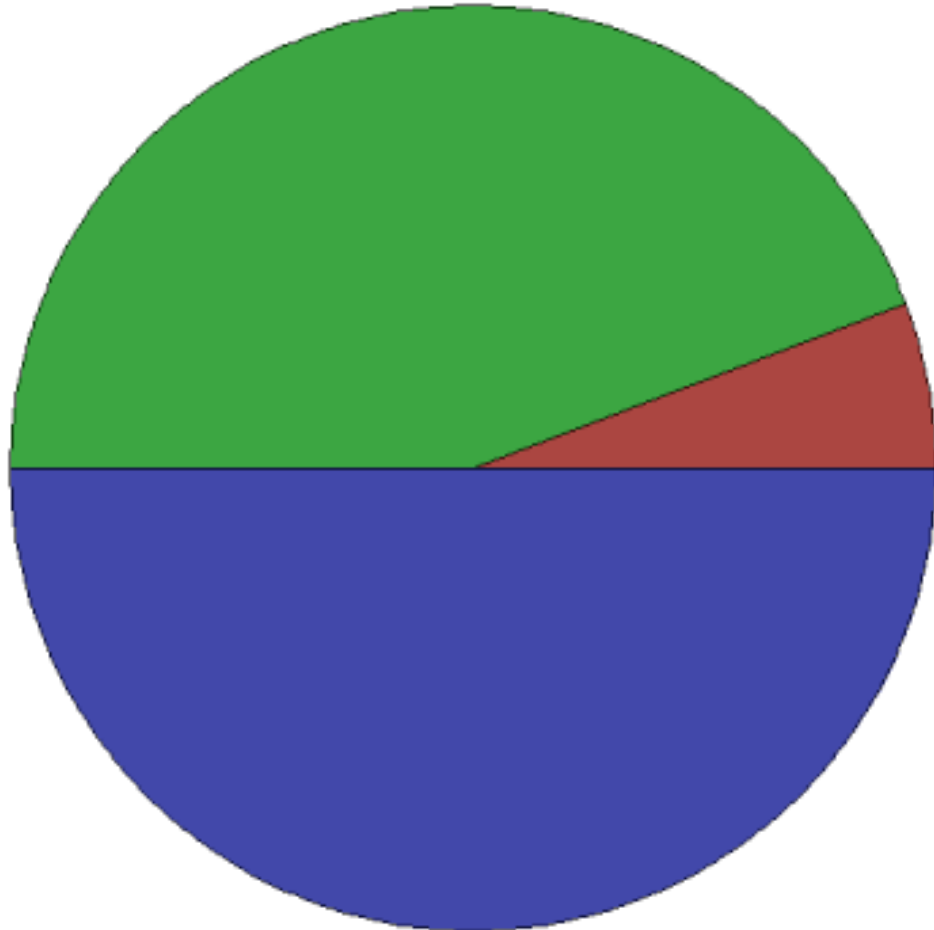


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- Free Clinics serve their patient populations with little to no federal or state support
- Free Clinics rely on donations of both funds and products to service their patients.
- Some Free Clinics may charge an administrative fee or sliding fee scale to their patients but no patient is denied services if they can't pay

# Free Clinics Operating Budget

50 under \$1 million = 50.0%  
44 under \$100,00 = 44.0%  
6 Over \$1 million = 6.0%



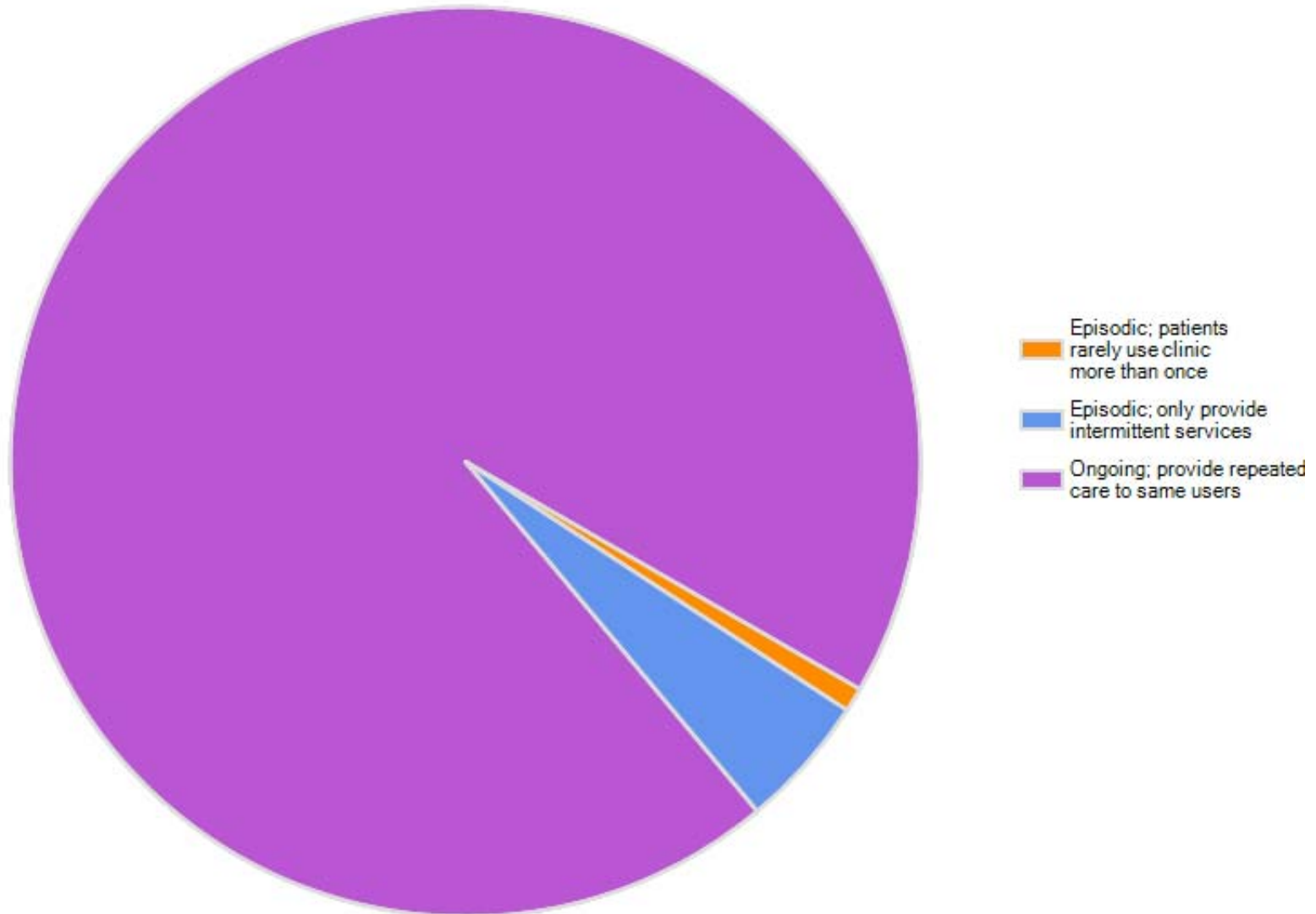
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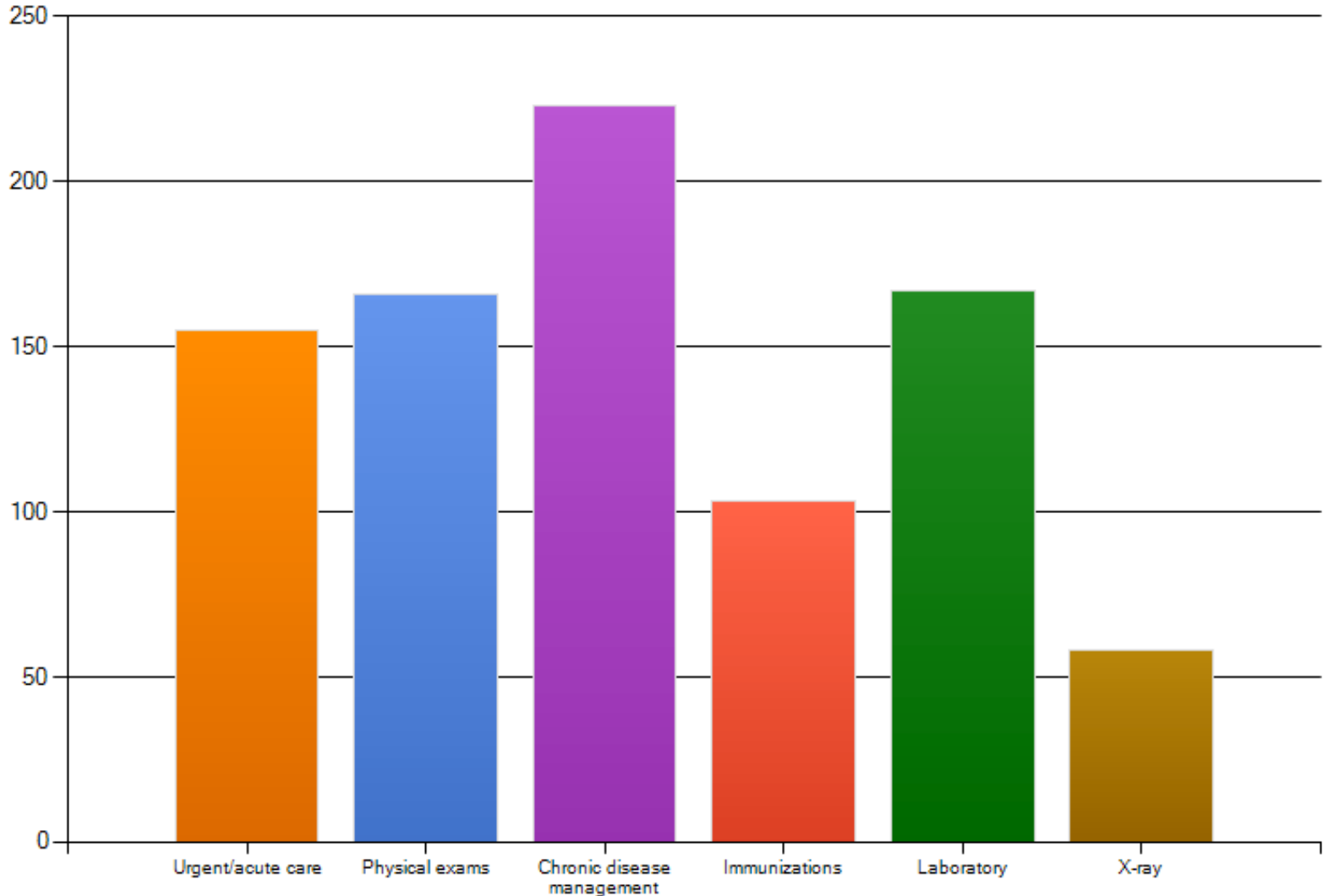
# Services Offered at Free Clinics

- A common misconception of Free Clinics is that they do not serve as a medical home to their patients
- Another common misconception is that there is not a range of services offered at Free Clinics
- Finally many think that Free Clinics are not a viable delivery model for care

# How often do Free Clinics See Their Patients



# What Types of Services Do Free Clinics Provide





## Free Clinics and Health Care Reform

- Free/Charitable Clinics were not named in the FY 2010 Presidential Budget
- Free/Charitable Clinics were not named in the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act (ARRA)
- In early March 2009 the President brought together a Health Care Forum to discuss Health Care Reform
  - Free/Charitable Clinics were not invited
  - NAFC started a letter writing campaign to the White House
  - To date the NAFC has not heard from the White House at all.





# House of Representatives and Health Care Reform

- The House of Representatives passed H.R 3200 “America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009”
- This legislation had no reference to free/charitable clinics in the bill
  - No reference to expansion of FTCA
  - No expansion of 340B pricing for free or charitable clinic
  - No inclusion of free clinics under the medical home provision in the bill
- The bill was sent to the Senate to be considered however, the Senate passed their own version of a health care reform bill.



# Senate and Health Care Reform

- The Senate passed H.R. 3950
  - “The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act”
- The legislation includes the expansion of the Federal Torts Claim Act to include free clinics site and staff
  - Sec. 10608. Extension of medical malpractice coverage to free clinics.
  - The expansion of FTCA reform is not included in the house legislation



## Will Free Clinics Still be Needed Now That WE Have Health Care Reform?

- YES! YES! YES!
- The Congressional Budget Office estimates that there will still be 24+ MILLION uninsured in 2019
- Accessibility, Portability and Affordability have these been answered?

## Will Free Clinics Still be Needed Now That WE Have Health Care Reform?

Lets take Massachusetts as an example:

*According to Robert Wood Johnson and the CATO Institute*

- In 2006, Massachusetts enacted a sweeping health insurance law that mirrors the legislation currently before Congress.
- According to Massachusetts there is a 98% insured rate
- According to the CATO institute the rate of uninsured is 4.7% and costs more than the supporters claimed.

## Will Free Clinics Still be Needed Now That WE Have Health Care Reform?

- ER Visits-RWJ Study
  - 75.7% respondents in a Massachusetts study need to get non emergency care after normal hours
  - 55.8% cited their inability to get an appointment with a doctor or other provider as soon as was needed
  - 87.9% of Massachusetts' most frequent emergency room visitors—those who use the emergency room three or more times per year—reported problems with their health or a disability.
  - Large majorities of frequent emergency room visitors also reported being out of work and income less than 300% of the Federal Poverty Level.



## Will Free Clinics Still be Needed Now That WE Have Health Care Reform?

- Since 1996 the NAFC has “lost one member” because they became a FQHC
- In the last two years the NAFC has gained 5 new clinics from Massachusetts
- One NAFC member clinic saw 500 patients in their first year in their second year under health care reform in MA they saw 1500 patients



## Communities Are Responding Everyday (C.A.R.E. Clinics)

- In 2009 the NAFC held a one day clinic in Houston Texas with Dr. Oz
  - We saw 1800 patients
- 8 C.A.R.E. Clinics have been held around the country
  - Houston TX
  - New Orleans LA
  - Little Rock AR
  - Kansas City MO (2 day clinic)
  - Hartford CT
  - Atlanta GA
  - Washington DC
  - New Orleans LA (2 day clinic)



## Communities Are Responding Everyday (C.A.R.E. Clinics)

- On December 7 2010 we will hold a clinic in Charlotte NC
- Through these clinics we have:
  - Treated over 10,500 patients and connected them to follow up care
  - Activated over 9,000 volunteers across the country
  - Stopped 7 suicides
  - Diagnosed 1 case of HIV
  - Diagnosed 14 cases of cancer and connected these patients with care
  - 90% of our patients have one or two life threatening diseases
  - Highlighted the amazing work free clinics do across the country everyday.



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# Questions and Answers?

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