

# COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS DELIVER ESSENTIAL DENTAL CARE

## WISCONSIN SNAPSHOT

In 2024, 7 million patients across the U.S. relied on Community Health Centers (CHCs) for dental services including school-based and mobile services, oral exams, sealants, cleanings, crowns and dentures, complex dental care, emergency services, and more.<sup>1</sup> Preventative care keeps patients out of expensive emergency room services, and avoids disruptions to school or work due to tooth pain. **Unfortunately, however, in 2024 there were over 30,000 oral health-related emergency department visits in Wisconsin, and less than half of children and one-fifth of adults enrolled in Medicaid received any oral health care services,** demonstrating the continued need for access improvements.<sup>2</sup>



**430,000 Visits<sup>3</sup>**  
provided by Wisconsin CHCs



**141 Dentists**



**99 Dental Hygienists**

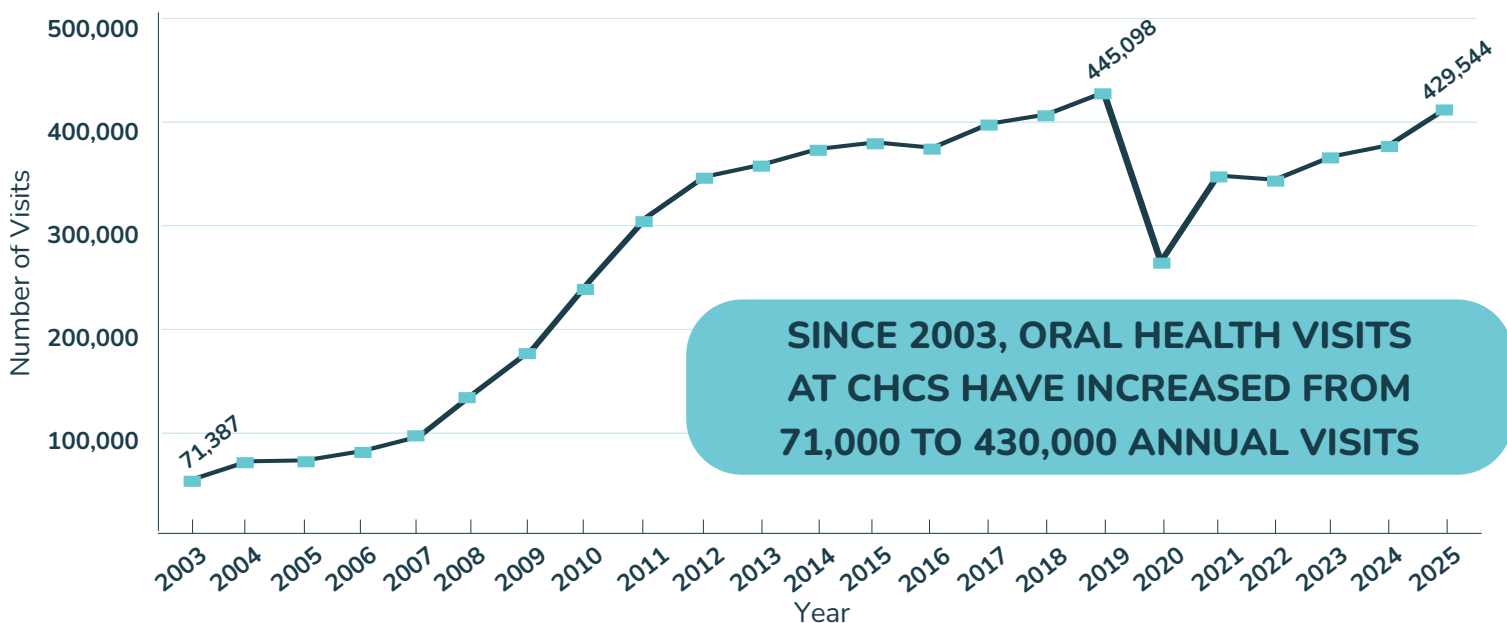


**353 Other Dental Personnel<sup>4</sup>**  
(e.g. Dental Assistants)

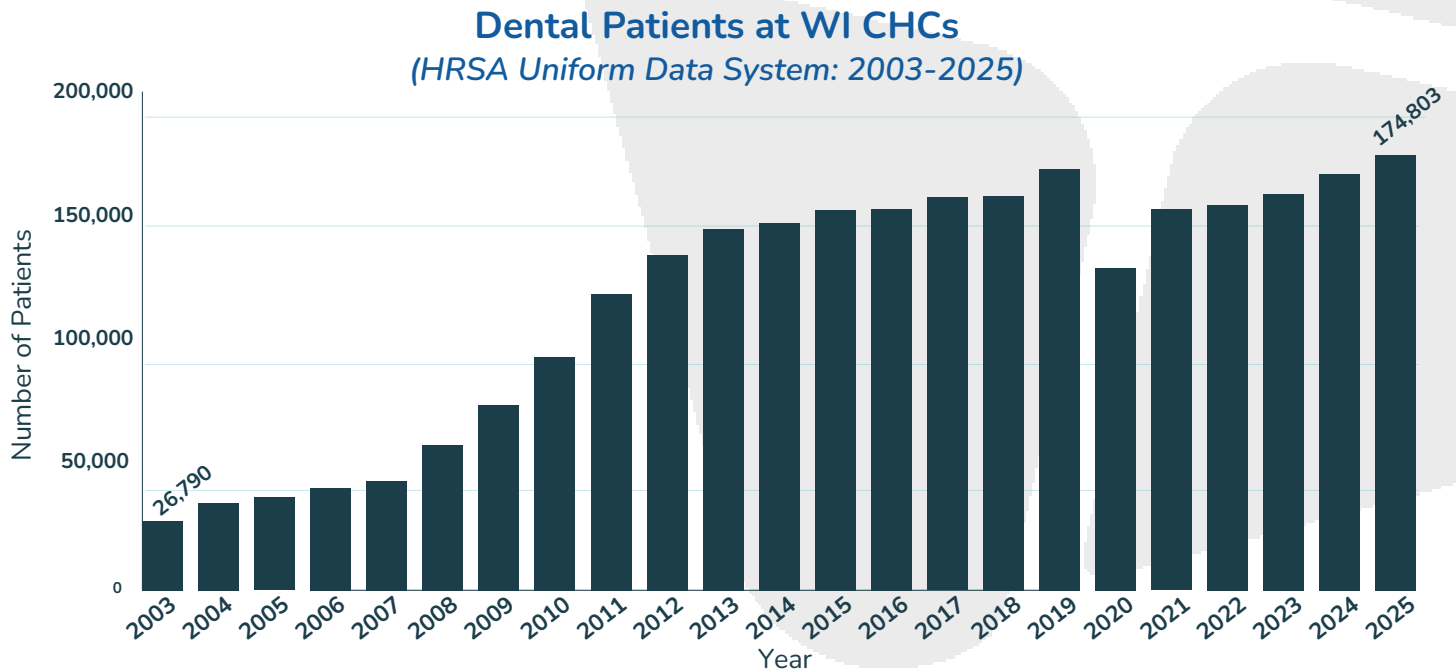
employed by Wisconsin CHCs

In Wisconsin, CHCs are especially integral to the state's dental infrastructure and improving access to care, especially for Medicaid-enrolled and uninsured patients.

**Oral Health Visits at WI CHCs**  
(HRSA Uniform Data Systems: 2003-2025)



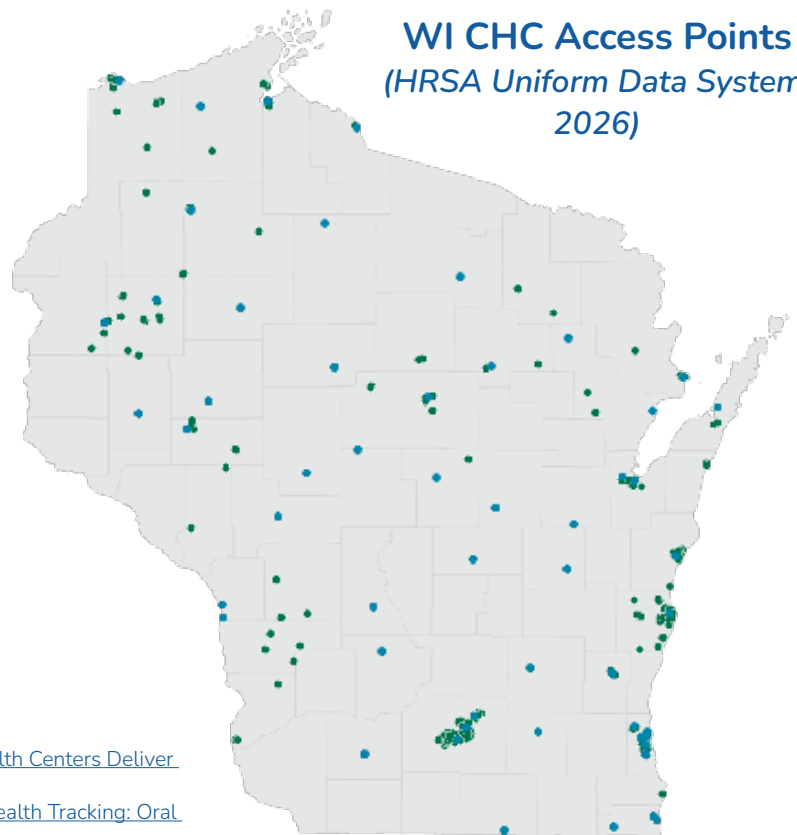
## DENTAL PATIENTS AT WI CHCS HAVE INCREASED SIXFOLD SINCE 2003



**WISCONSIN CHCS  
PROVIDE DENTAL  
SERVICES AT MORE  
THAN 100 SERVICE  
SITES**

- Brick and mortar sites
- School-based sites\*  
\*Not all school-based sites provide dental services.
-  5 Mobile Units

**WI CHC Access Points**  
(HRSA Uniform Data System,  
2026)



### Sources

<sup>1</sup>National Association of Community Health Center. [Community Health Centers Deliver Essential Dental Care. \(March 2026\)](#)

<sup>2</sup>Wisconsin Department of Health Services. [Environmental Public Health Tracking: Oral Health \(2024\)](#)

<sup>4</sup>WPHCA Analysis of 2025 UDS Data

<sup>5</sup>WPHCA Analysis of 2025 UDS Data [Table 5](#)