

**Primary Care
Urgent Care
Public Health**

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What Is Primary Care?

- Primary care is the level of a health services system that provides **entry** into the system for all new needs and problems, provides **person-focused (not disease-oriented)** care over time, provides care for all but very uncommon or unusual conditions, and **coordinates or integrates care**, regardless of where the care is delivered and who provides it.
- It is the means by which the two main goals of a health services system, optimization and equity of health status, are approached.

What Is Urgent Care?

- Urgent care is a category of **walk-in clinic** focused on the delivery of **ambulatory care** in a dedicated medical facility outside of a traditional **emergency room**.
- Urgent care centers primarily treat **injuries** or **illnesses** requiring immediate care, but **not serious enough to require an ER** visit. Urgent care centers are **distinguished from similar ambulatory healthcare centers such as emergency departments and convenient care clinics** by their scope of conditions treated and available facilities on-site.
- While urgent care centers are usually not open 24-hours a day, 70% of centers in the United States open by 8:00 am or earlier and 95% close after 7:00 pm.

Public Health Connects Us All

- Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease and injury prevention and detection and control of infectious diseases.
- Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations. These populations can be as small as a local neighborhood, or as big as an entire country or region of the world.

What Is A Community Health Center?

- Community Health Centers (CHCs) are private, nonprofit organizations or **public health organizations** that provide **primary health and related services** to residents of a defined geographic OR functional area that is **medically underserved**. CHCs and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) can receive grant funding from the federal government and reimbursement from Medicaid. They are also supported by other federal grants, state and local grants or contracts, private grants, Medicare, private insurance, and patient fees.
- Community health centers have a three-fold mission.
 - CHCs aim to **improve access** to care for low income, underserved, and vulnerable populations. They are required to be located in medically underserved rural and urban areas; within those communities, they serve those with limited access to more mainstream health care.
 - CHCs provide a fully **comprehensive range of primary care services**, including "enabling" or support services.
 - And, true to their roots in the community activism of the 1960s, they **involve the community in both the management and governance** of the center.