

# Strengthening Primary Care Through the Triple Double



## **America's health care system is not delivering the outcomes patients and communities need:**

Despite spending more on health care than any other developed country, patients continue to experience an inefficient, fragmented system that is overly focused on treating illness rather than preventing it.

## **Primary care should be the foundation of our health care system, but it is under-resourced:**

Primary care improves health, lowers costs and expands access. It enables prevention, early detection and ongoing management of chronic health needs. Yet, the U.S. has consistently underinvested in and undervalued primary care.

### THE IMBALANCE IS CLEAR

**Less than  
5%**

of health care funding goes to primary care, despite accounting for roughly 35% of all visits.<sup>1</sup>

**129  
million  
Americans**

live with chronic diseases requiring ongoing primary care management.<sup>2</sup>

**100  
million  
Americans**

face barriers to accessing primary care — nearly double since 2014.<sup>3</sup>

**31%**  
**of U.S.  
adults**

have no usual source of care or use the ER as their primary care.<sup>4</sup>



## **The Primary Care Triple Double provides a clear path forward**

The Triple Double will help ensure every patient has access to high-quality primary care by advancing three interconnected goals: doubling investment, doubling the reach of primary care and doubling the next generation primary care workforce.

The Triple Double is a clear, achievable path forward.

***Now is the moment to act.***

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# How the Triple Double Strengthens Primary Care



## Double the Investment in Primary Care

From 5% to 10% of health care spending

### What doubling investment delivers:

- Ensures patients can access continuous, comprehensive, and coordinated care
- Improves health outcomes
- Reduces overall health care costs
- Supports prevention, care coordination and chronic disease management
- Reduces hospitalizations and emergency care

*Currently, primary care receives only ~5% of total health care spending*



## Double the Reach of Primary Care, Starting with Community Health Centers

Increase CHC capacity from 10% to 20%

### What CHCs make possible:

- Help millions get timely, affordable care
- Play a critical role in under-resourced communities
- Cost about 1% of total health care spending while caring for more than 50 million Americans

*50M+ Americans already receive care at CHCs*



## Double the Next Generation Primary Care Workforce

From 20% to 40% of clinicians choosing to work in primary care

### How this strengthens primary care:

- Improves health outcomes, increases life expectancy and lowers costs
- Grows the primary care workforce through community-based training, scholarships and loan repayment
- Supports team-based care models that improve continuity of care

*70K+ projected primary care physician shortage by 2038*

## Three interconnected goals. One stronger primary care system.

Increased investment expands access. Expanded access drives demand for a stronger workforce. A strengthened workforce improves outcomes and reduces costs.

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#### SOURCES:

1. Jabbarpour Y, Jetty A, Byun H, Siddiqi A, Park J. The Health of US Primary Care 2025 Scorecard – The Cost of Neglect. Milbank Memorial Fund and The Physicians Foundation. February 18, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1599/mmfmf.2025.0218>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Chronic Disease Prevalence in the US: Sociodemographic and Geographic Variations by Zip Code Tabulation Area. Preventing Chronic Disease. 2024.
3. The Robert Graham Center and the National Association of Community Health Centers. Access Denied: A Look at America's Medically Disenfranchised. 2007. <https://www.graham-center.org/news-events/press/all-releases/03162007-care-access>
4. Jabbarpour Y, Jetty A, Byun H, Siddiqi A, Park J. The Health of US Primary Care 2025 Scorecard – The Cost of Neglect. Milbank Memorial Fund and The Physicians Foundation. February 18, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1599/mmfmf.2025.0218>



Primary Care for America