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Free Clinics are Losing Funding

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What is a Free Clinic?

- A healthcare facility in the United States that offers low cost or no cost visits and treatments for patients who are underinsured.
- Permit patients to seek care from a provider
- Receive laboratory or radiographic services if necessary (Darnell, 2010).
- In order to be able to provide such services Free Clinics depend upon donations and partnerships to fund their practices
- Often do not receive any state or government funding (Birs, 2016).

Reach Out

- Utilizes the professional skills of volunteer health care professionals to provide the underserved/underinsured Dayton population with free access to health care services
- Provides an alternative to emergency room visits for minor illnesses and chronic conditions (Reach Out, 2019).

Resources

- Birs, Antoinette et al. "Medical Care in a Free Clinic: A Comprehensive Evaluation of Patient Experience, Incentives, and Barriers to Optimal Medical Care with Consideration-of a Facility Fee" *Cureus* vol. 8,2 e500. 19 Feb. 2016, doi: 10.7759/cureus.500
- Darnell JS. "Free clinics in the United States: a nationwide survey." *Archives of Internal Medicine*. 2010;170(11):946-953.
- Demeria, Katie. "Virginia's free clinics 'really struggling' in the face of growing hurdles." *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. 27 Aug. 2016, https://www.richmond.com/business/local/virginia-s-free-clinics-really-struggling-in-the-face-of-article_f1e3a449-a6c4-5d31-ab46-1b04966c8bda.html
- Fantozzi, Madison. "Free Haines City Clinic Struggles As It Serves." *The Ledger*, The Ledger, 6 Feb. 2015, www.theledger.com/news/20150205/free-haines-city-clinic-struggles-as-it-serves.
- 2017 Annual Report. Reach Out of Montgomery County, 2017, pp. 1–12, 2017 Annual Report.

Why it Matters

- Despite the passage of the Affordable Care Act, an estimated 31 million Americans will still remain without healthcare coverage (Birs,2016).
- NAFC reports a 40% increase in patient demand for services from free clinics for everything from pediatric vaccinations to long-term management of diabetes among the adult population (Birs,2016).
- Poor health is directly correlated to low socioeconomic status (Demeria, 2016).
- 60-70% of the underserved/uninsured patients in the US are chronically ill, complex patients, one of the "sickest" populations (Demeria, 2016).



Loss of Funding

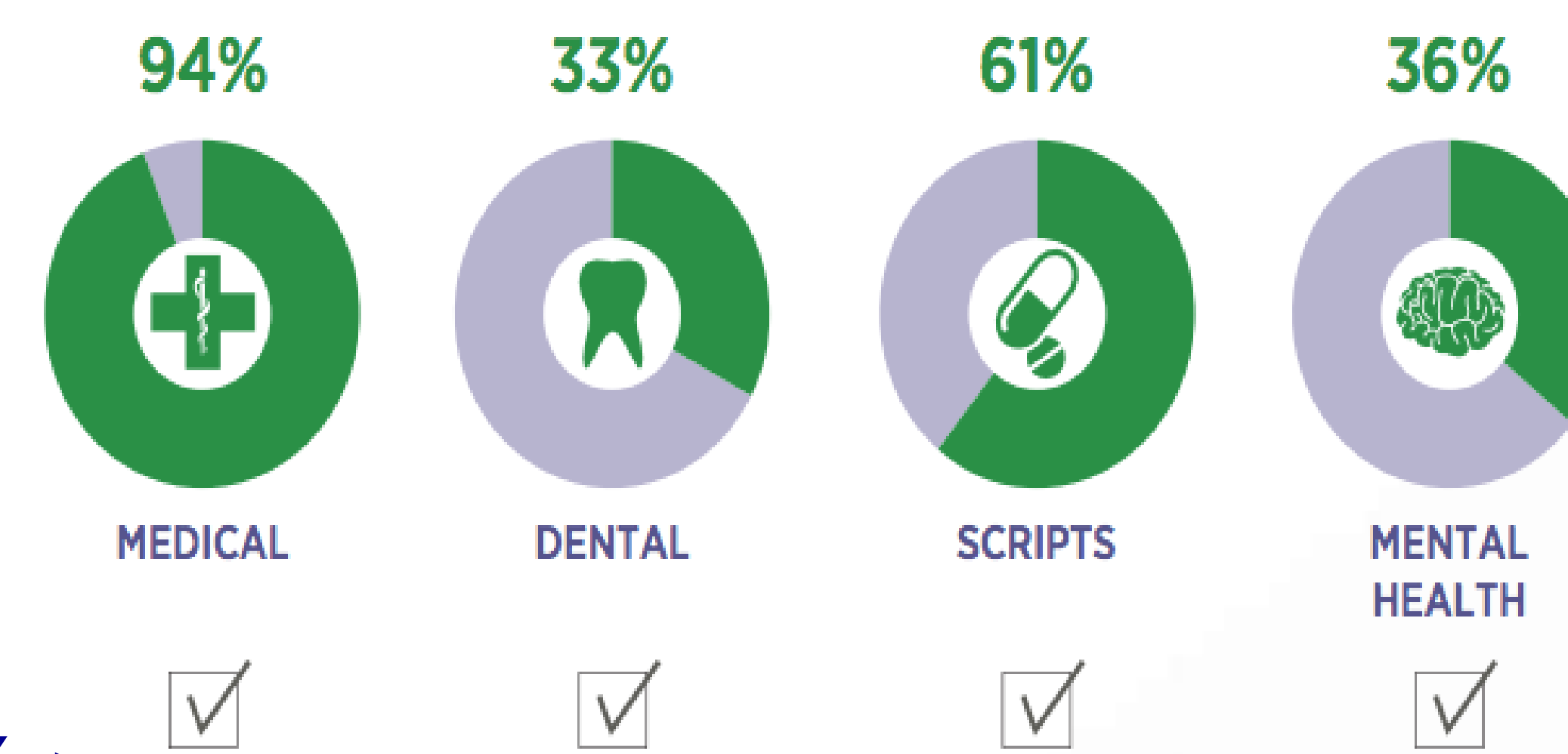
- The National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics has reported an overall 20% decrease in clinic funding (Birs, 2016).
- A free clinic in Florida reports experiencing a budget cut as their clinic lost a 3-year grant that would have provided \$100,000 in funding (Fantozzi, 2015).
- Reach Out experienced a fund loss that left a 21% decrease in their typical budget (2017 Annual Report).
- Partnerships with Montgomery County Human Service Levy (HSL) and United Way (UW) of Greater Dayton Area were terminated (2017 Annual Report)

2 THE TREATMENT: Free and Charitable Clinics provide quality care for those who need it most.

40% increase in demand of Services from Free and Charitable Clinics

Gaps in essential healthcare benefits under the Affordable Care Act.
CHECK ALL THAT APPLY ->

Percentage of services offered by clinics:



Every \$ donated to Free and Charitable Clinics equals \$5 worth of patient services

<https://www.nafcclinics.org/sites/default/files/NAFC%20Infographic%20%26%20Report%20Feb%202%202015%20small.pdf>