Despite technological ad-
vances, modern medical inter-
ventions, and the presence of one
person, the overall health and
health care in Uganda, African
Americans remain shockingly low.
The United States
ranked 23rd in the world in
life expectancy for both men
and women in 2000, 50th for maternal
mortality and 19th for infant
mortality. The profound
emphasis on specialist care
generally excludes any
majority as a contributing factor
in this trend. This form
takes shapes and dem-
strates the resulting
continuum. Community
providers, community
health centers (CHCs) become
an increasingly important
health care resource for all of
our patients, including
especially underserved
populations such as those,
disabilities, racial/ethnic
minorities, the poor, and the
marginalized and underserved.

As a practicingphysician
in promoting community health,
we work with Jeanette South PA,
Andrew Melvin, M.D.

Currently, as a community health
specialist, we practice
through a collaborative
relationship between the
providers and patients,
and these research interests
include maternal child
health and health and
early intervention for
children and young adults.

How do CHCs begin?

The National Association of
Community Health Centers
(NACHC) is the original
primary care model. The
National Health Service (NHS)
was established in 1938 and
the first three CHCs were
in operation in 1968. Other
community health care programs
have evolved since then
and now there are over 1,000
community health centers
across the United States.

What do CHCs provide?

While the services and
programs offered by
community health centers
vary widely, they all
offer primary care services,
including preventive
health care, diagnosis and management
of acute and chronic
conditions, and treatment
of mental health and
alcohol and other drug
problems. They also
provide education and
support for people
coping with chronic
conditions.

How do CHCs differ from
other types of health clinics?

Community health centers
are one of the few types of
health clinics that
provide comprehensive care,
including health care for
children, adults, and seniors,
and for people with disabilities.

What are the benefits of
community health centers?

Community health centers
provide a wide range of
services to meet the needs
of all members of the community,
including children, adults,
and seniors. They also provide
special services to
people with disabilities
and those living in rural areas.

Why should we support
community health centers?

Community health centers
are a critical part of the
U.S. health care system.
They provide care for everyone,
regardless of whether
they have health insurance
or not. They also provide
services to people in
rural and underserved
areas.

How can I get involved
with community health centers?

There are many ways to
get involved with
community health centers.
You can volunteer your time,
make a contribution, or
support community health
centers in your area.

For more information
on community health centers
in your area, please visit
www.chcco.org.

References: