

## VERMONT COALITION OF CLINICS FOR THE UNINSURED

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In the age of healthcare reform, why do we continue to need free clinics in Vermont?

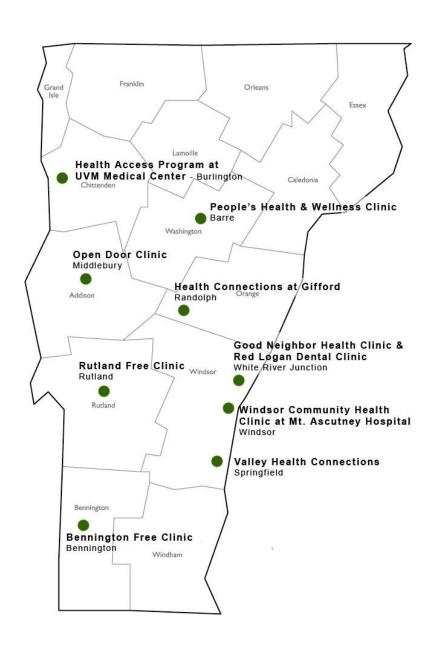
Because not everyone is eligible; not everyone can afford it; and not everything is covered.

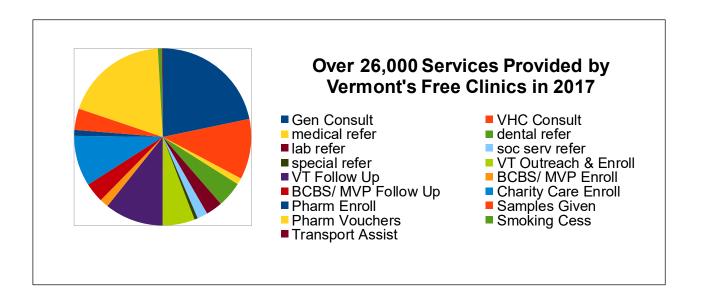
Since 1997 we have served over 55,000 Vermonters. In the years since 2007 when Catamount was introduced we have seen a 72% increase in the number of Vermonters we serve. Each year approximately 45% of our patients are NEW, meaning they have not been to our clinic before. We know from our patient surveys that about 40% of those who choose not to enroll in insurance do so because they say the premiums and costs are unaffordable.

Our patients are usually employed, are at least high school graduates, and have a wide range of health access needs. They most often come to us on the referral of a health care provider or friends/family members.

In 2017, we assisted 7,831 Vermonters which was a slight decrease over 2016, but a 35% increase since 2010. We provided over 26,000 services to Vermonters in 2017, an increase of 30% since 2010.

VCCU clinics provided **4,584** medical and dental visits in 2017, worth **\$610,000**. Equivalent ER care would have totaled more than **\$3.3** million.





The Vermont Coalition of Clinics for the Uninsured (VCCU) is an association of nine free clinic programs, four of which also include dental programs, that provide care on site or by referral, and enrollment assistance free of charge to Vermonters without adequate medical and dental insurance. The clinics are located throughout the state and are supported by the tremendous work of volunteers, community hospitals, local fund-raising and an annual grant from the State of Vermont.

The programs help eligible people enroll in any of the Vermont Health Connect programs, including Medicaid, Dr. Dynasaur, BCBS and MVP, and if appropriate, provide health care either onsite or by referral until that program takes over. They also provide assistance with prescriptions, sliding fee scales, hospital charity care programs and other health needs.

There is never a charge or a fee for any of the services we provide. We leverage all the funding we receive with almost \$4 million dollars of in-kind support from local hospitals, providers and volunteers.

## Our mission is to ensure access to quality health care in Vermont regardless of one's ability to pay.

## **Our 9 Member Free Clinic Programs Include:**

- Bennington Free Clinic Bennington
- Good Neighbor Health Clinic & Red Logan Dental Clinic White River Junction
- Health Assistance Program at the UVM Medical Center Burlington- Referral Services Only
- **Health Connections at Gifford** Randolph Referral Services Only
- Open Door Clinic Middlebury
- People's Health & Wellness Clinic Barre
- Rutland Free Clinic and Dental Clinic Rutland
- Valley Health Connections Springfield Referral Services Only
- Windsor Community Health Clinic at Mt. Ascutney Hospital Windsor Referral Services Only