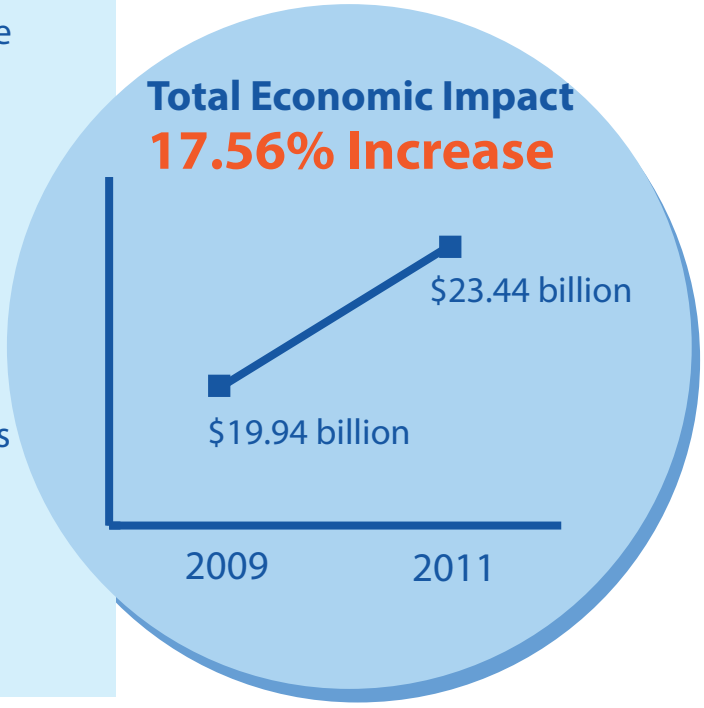
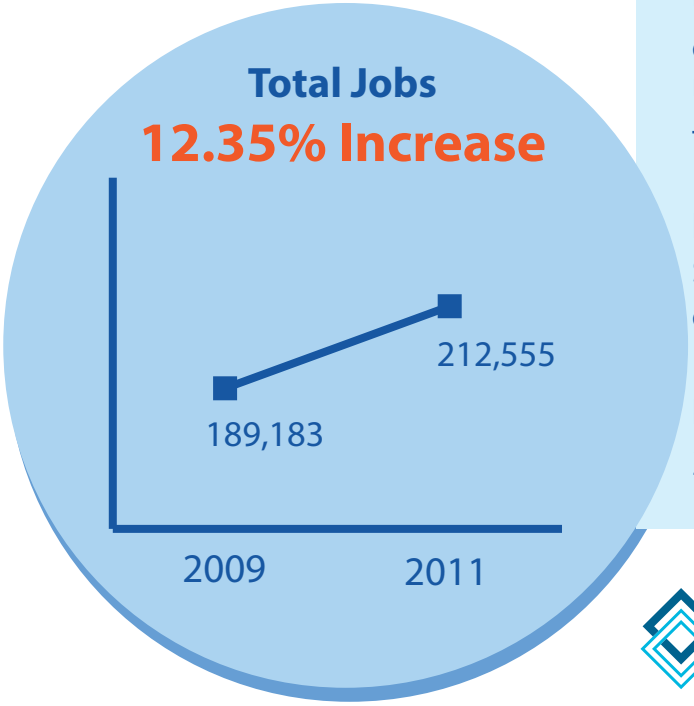
Community Impact of Health Centers Continues to Increase

Capital Link is pleased to report that the powerful economic benefits health centers provide to their local communities are on the rise.

Health centers benefit communities in multiple ways. Not only are health centers expanding access to care, they are stimulating the economy of their neighborhoods by building new state-of-the-art facilities or renovating to improve existing facilities in underserved areas, often with the benefit of adding employees.

Economic benefits result from the capital investment itself, from the growth of the health center's operations and by attracting other community development projects like pharmacies, grocery stores, banking facilities and retail upgrades. Health centers also purchase goods and services from local businesses, creating a ripple effect of additional economic stimulus throughout the broader community. In many cases, the health center is considered an "anchor" of the community.





Using an integrated economic modeling and planning tool called IMPLAN (IMpact analysis for PLANning) and 2011 UDS data, Capital Link completed an analysis to capture the economic effects of health centers nationally.

Health centers collectively generated more than **$23.4 billion** in total economic activity for their local communities in 2011—a **17.5 % increase** since 2009.

Employment grew from approximately **189,000 jobs** in 2009 to just over **212,000 jobs** in 2011, a **12.4% increase.**

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Source: Capital Link, 2013. Based on 2011 Uniform Data System (UDS), Bureau of Primary Health Care, Health Resources and Services Administration, DHHS.