The Uniform Data System (UDS) is an integrated reporting system used by all grantees funded for Community Health Center, Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker, Health Care for the Homeless, and Public Housing Primary Care, under the Health Center grant program administered by the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The data collected through this report are analyzed to ensure compliance with legislative mandates, report program accomplishments, and justify budget requests to the U.S. Congress. The data help to identify trends over time, enabling HRSA to establish or expand targeted programs and identify effective services and interventions to improve the health of underserved communities and vulnerable populations. UDS data are compared with national data to look at differences between the U.S. population at large and those individuals and families who rely on the health care safety net for primary care. UDS data also inform Health Center Program grantees, partners and communities about Health Centers and their patients.

Beginning with the 2008 reporting year, the UDS system was moved from a client-based application to a completely electronic web-based data system. The end-to-end process of UDS reporting and review is now accomplished through a web application that is integrated with HRSA’s Electronic Handbooks (EHBs). This transition was accomplished primarily to improve the grantee experience during the preparation and submission of the report, to increase efficiency in the data-editing process, to improve the data quality for the reporting process, and to centralize the data in a single repository with dynamic data access.

The UDS report is a performance report, submitted annually through the HRSA EHBs. The report is made available on January 1, and is to be submitted by the middle of February, to report data collected during the previous calendar year.

Beginning with the 2011 reporting year, the UDS reporting requirement was extended to include Health Center Program look-alikes.

For more on the Uniform Data System as it is implemented in the HRSA Electronic Handbooks, please go to https://grants3.hrsa.gov/2010/WebTrainingInternal/Interface/CBT/UDS%20TA/UDS_TA_Slides.htm