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NAWHC NOW! provides information offered by the National Association of Worksite Health Centers and other industry experts on programs, developments, resources and benchmarking surveys related to onsite, near-site, mobile and virtual worksite clinics. Visit www.nawhc.org for details and membership information.

EDUCATION – Details on all programs and registrations are available at <https://www.nawhc.org/Events>

Onsite Employee Health Clinics Congress – Jan. 13-14, 2022, Hilton San Diego Bayfront, San Diego, California

As healthcare spending continues to dramatically increase, employers are taking control in an effort to curtail costs while improving the overall health of their workforce. Also, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the primacy of health and wellbeing has never been more profound. This program, sponsored and managed by BRI Network will provide sessions for those new to employee health clinics and for those with mature health centers. **NAWHC Members receive a \$250 discount.**

[Register at this link](#)

Onsite Employee Health Clinics Summit – Jan. 20-21, 2022, Doubletree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley, Scottsdale, Arizona

By attending the 2022 Onsite Employee Health Clinics Summit, sponsored and managed by World Conference Forum (WCF), you will learn what it takes to build and streamline facilities that meet innovative visions for healthcare and wellness. You will also learn the benefits associated with expanding current onsite health facilities. Furthermore, you will walk away with practical solutions to operate a cost-effective healthcare program while providing quality healthcare. **NAWHC Members receive a \$250 discount.**

[Register at this link](#)

Selecting a Worksite Health Center Partner and Transitioning Clinic Partners - January 25, 2022 -12:00 PM CT Webinar

Successful worksite health centers have a foundation of partnership and understanding between the sponsoring employer and their service partner – whether a third-party vendor or a local health provider. This session reviews the key areas and legal items to address, as well as a checklist and recommendations for transitioning or closing a worksite center.

[Register at this link](#)

Why Your Company Needs Worksite or Near-Site Direct Primary Care

NAWHC Executive Director Larry Boress was interviewed on the podcast *360 Degrees of Healthcare* on why employers should have a worksite clinic. Listen to the podcast on one of these platforms:

- Podbean ([link](#))
- open.spotify ([link](#))
- Apple Podcasts ([link](#))



BENCHMARKING

2021 Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Plans

This year's Mercer annual health benefits survey shows trends in cost and plan design and looks at employers' strategies for managing cost and supporting employees -- and how they have responded to the pandemic. Mercer national survey of employer-sponsored plans found:

- Health benefit cost jumped 6.3% in 2021 due to: higher utilization due to “catch-up” care, claims for long COVID, new extremely high-cost cellular drug therapies, and inflation in health care prices – these could result in ongoing cost growth acceleration
- Due to a tight labor market employers are not shifting more cost responsibility to employees
- Nearly half of all employers with 500 or more employees – and about two-thirds of those with 20,000 or more employees – say that addressing health equity and the social determinants of health will be an important priority over the next 3-5 years
- Adding or expanding programs to increase access to behavioral health care is a top-three priority for all employers with 500 or more employees (74% rated it is important or very important) – and it's the number one priority for employers with 20,000 or more employees (86% rated it important or very important).
- Employers are looking to virtual health care as a way to improve access without adding cost. With in-person health care severely limited during the worst of the pandemic, telemedicine got a boost: among employers with 500 or more employees, utilization rates had stagnated at 9% or less, on average, for many years; it jumped to 15% in 2020 and has held at 12% during the first half of 2021.

You can obtain a summary of the results at [this link](#) .

RESEARCH

Healthy Hearts in Manufacturing

Northwestern University's Research Program on Manufacturing and Health is currently recruiting worksite and near-site health clinics to participate in a program to improve heart health and reduce disparities in cardiovascular care. Participating clinics will be provided with *no-cost* evidence-based coaching, electronic health record support, and data feedback and benchmarking.

All interventions are drawn from the [Million Hearts Campaign](#), a federally funded initiative to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes within 5 years. Northwestern's research team will evaluate the effectiveness of the Million Hearts interventions on patient outcomes and health care costs. More information can be found on the [project FAQs](#) page. Interested organizations should contact associate professor and study director, Megan McHugh, at megan-mchugh@northwestern.edu.

RESOURCES



2021 CDC COVID-19 Update and Information

The CDC help a vaccine update recently on the decision to recommend the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines over the Johnson & Johnson vaccine due to new data. This supports a new recommendation from ACIP on the use of vaccines. Here is the [official document](#) on the CDC position.

Please visit our website at www.nawhc.org and be sure to check in and sign-up at the [NAWHC LinkedIn Group](#) to stay abreast of developments *in NAWHC and in worksite health and wellness*.