

Benefits of School-Based Health Centers

Research and evaluations have demonstrated that school-based health centers represent cost-effective investments of public resources.

- A study by Johns Hopkins University found that school-based health centers *reduced inappropriate emergency room use* among regular users of school-based health centers. (5,9)
- A study of school-based health center costs by Emory University School of Public Health attributed *a reduction in Medicaid expenditures* related to inpatient, drug and emergency department use to use of school-based health centers. (1)
- School-based health centers have demonstrated that they attract harder-to-reach populations, especially minorities and males, and that they do a better job at getting them crucial services such as mental health care and high-risk behavior screens. Two studies found adolescents were 10-21 times more likely to come to a SBHC for mental health services than the community health center network or HMO. (3,4)
- A national multi-site study of school-based health centers conducted by Mathematica Policy Research found a *significant increase in health care access by students who used school-based health centers*: 71% of students reported having a health care visit in past year compared to 59% of students who did not have access to a SBHC. (6)



- A study of elementary school-based health centers conducted by Montefiore Medical Center found a *reduction in hospitalization and an increase in school attendance* among inner-city school children with asthma (10). Another study on school-based health care's effects on asthma found decreases in hospitalization rates of 75-85% and improvements in the use of peak flow meters and inhalers. (7)
- Adolescents who received counseling services in a school-based health center significantly decreased their absenteeism and tardiness, while those not receiving counseling slightly increased their absence and tardiness rates. (2)

- A study of student users of health centers found that *students who reported depression and past suicide attempts were significantly more willing to use the clinic* for counseling than students reporting no so. Those with perceived weight problems reported more willingness to *use a school clinic for nutrition information* than those who did not feel overweight. Sexually active students were willing to *seek information on pregnancy prevention* and to have general disease checks. (8)
- Dallas school-based health centers found that medical services helped *decrease absences by 50%* among students who had three or more absences in a six-week period; students who received mental health services had an *85% decline in school discipline referrals*. (11)

Sources: See other side of page.



For more information about SBHCs please contact:

**The School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan
www.scha-mi.org -or- 517-908-0847**

Sources

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