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

**SBHCs Reduce Health Care costs**

Research shows that investments in SBHCs generate savings through reduced use of high cost services, thereby increasing access without increasing overall Medicaid expenditures.1

SBHCs reduced inappropriate emergency room use among regular users.2,3

A study found a reduction in Medicaid expenditures related to inpatient, drug and emergency department use due to the usage of school-based health centers.4

**SBHCs Increase Health Care Access**

SBHCs Target harder-to-reach populations. 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.5,6

A study of school-based health centers 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 who had access to a SBHC versus 59% of students who did not have access to a SBHC.7

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 services. 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

**SBHCs Improve School Performance**

A study of elementary school-based health centers found a reduction in hospitalization and an increase in school attendance among inner-city school children for asthma.9

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.10

---


