

School-Based Health Centers Improving Health Care Access and Student Success

Sources

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SBHC = school-based health center

Research and evaluations have demonstrated that school-based health centers greatly enhance children's access to health care.

- Adolescents are 10-21 times more likely to come to a SBHC for mental health services than a community health center network or HMO. This data was confirmed in two separate studies. (2,3)
- 71% of students reported having a health care visit as compared to 59% of students who did not have access to a school-based health center. School-Based Health centers show significant increase in health care access by students who used SBHC's. These studies were multiple sites and were conducted by Mathematica Policy Research. (4)
- Decreased absenteeism and tardiness was widely reported amongst adolescents who received counseling services in a school-based health center. Those without centers reported slight increases in both absenteeism and tardiness. (1)
- Depressed and suicide prone students were much more willing to go to a SBHC for counseling than non reporting students. Overweight students and those with perceived weight problems were also more likely to use a school clinic for nutrition information. (5)
- 50% reduction in absences was attributed to medical services within the schools in Dallas school-based health centers 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. (6)